

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Kay Shelnutt for the degree of Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in Anthropology, Anthropology, and Earth Information Science and Technology presented on January 30, 2007.

Title: Beagle, Oregon, An Unknown Casualty of War: Camp White and the Destruction of a Farming Community During the Second World War.

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This project examines the landscape of the farming community of Beagle, Oregon prior to and during the Second World War and the effect on it due to the construction of Camp White, a World War II training facility. The Beagle landscape is examined through the prism of current theory that suggests that landscapes are not discrete units of analysis but are, instead, symbiotic relationships between land and people. Utilizing archives, contemporary newspaper accounts, photographs, oral histories, and archaeological investigation, the history of the construction of Beagle landscape, the effects of the construction of Camp White, the subsequent removal of Beagle residents, and postwar renewal are examined. The project concludes that the Beagle landscape was, and is, a holistic entity that, though dramatically changed in 1942, continues to exist and inform the lives of surviving original residents as well as the history of the Beagle area.

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Beagle, Oregon
An Unknown Casualty of War:
Camp White and the Destruction of a Farming
Community During the Second World War

by
Kay Shelnutt

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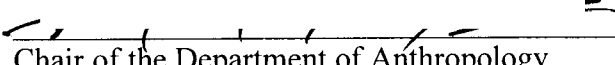


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Kay Shelnut, Author

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Beagle, Oregon An Unknown Casualty of War: Camp White and the Destruction of a Farming Community During the Second World War.

Introduction

“...Chapman Pincher and his like have made an uncontested take-over of all the moral assets of that period [World War II]; have coined the war into Hollywood blockbusters and spooky paper-backs and television media; have attributed all the value of that moment to the mythic virtues of an authoritarian Right which is now, supposedly the proper inheritor and guardian of the present nation’s interest. I walk in my garden, or stand cooking at the stove, and muse on how this came about. My memories of that war are very different” (Thompson 1980; quoted in Walker 2003: 66).

This project began from a desire to determine the location of the prisoner of war compound at Camp White, an army training base built near Medford, Oregon in 1942 (Figure 1). Research at the Oregon State archives in Salem turned up the blue prints of the camp that clearly showed the addition of a German prisoner of war compound in 1943.



Figure 1. Map of Oregon. Arrow points to vicinity of Camp White and Beagle. Source: Magellan Geographix/www.infoplease.com/atlas/state/oregon.html.

Mission accomplished, or so it seemed. Studying these plans, however, I realized that people had lived on the land before the army sought to acquire it for the construction of Camp White. My research then turned to determining the "footprint" of Camp White on Medford and the surrounding area. What had happened to the communities that appeared on the army's plat map?

In researching this question, as so often happens in historical research, a serendipitous comment by Carol Samuelson at the Southern Oregon Historical Society led me to Beagle, Oregon. This small farming community of approximately 300, 14 miles north of Medford, was located in the middle of what, on military blue prints, was called the "Beagle Area." This twenty-five square mile northern portion of Camp White was destined to be the cantonment's heavy artillery range. When the army acquired the property for Camp White, the people of Beagle and surrounding areas were forced out, leaving their homes, livelihoods, friends, and community.

Theoretical Background

Throughout history, people have been uprooted from their living spaces, either by choice, conflict, or by natural events such as floods and earthquakes. And words like “community”, “place”, and “landscape” have evoked, and continue to evoke, varied meanings. Prior to the modern era, however, medieval Europe understood its place within the Great Chain of Being and “no ontological gulf was recognized between human beings and the rest of creation” (Thomas 2001: 167). Indeed, as all earthly creation flowed from God who occupied the pinnacle of this chain, the humans inhabiting this medieval world were “almost everywhere conditioned by the desire for Order in nature and society unblemished by the ignominy of “perverted” self-centeredness and the will” (Samuels 1979:55).

It is in the fifteenth century with the birth of landscape painting that the roots of the modern understanding of landscape begin to take hold. Landscape painting is one physical manifestation of humanity’s usurpation of God as the center of creation (Thomas 2001:167) and demonstrates the convergence of modern thought, mercantile capitalism, and a Newtonian worldview imbued with connotations of class and power (Tuan 1979, Buttimer 1980, Bender 2001). This evolving cultural construct of landscape, strengthened by the Enlightenment and scientific revolution, solidified “the categorical separation of culture from nature, and of human beings from their environment” (Thomas 2001:167) and produced a

legacy that “reduced all beings (man (sic) as well as nature) to a common denominator: the method of analysis” (Samuels 1979:57).

Analysis, separation, capitalism, and class now defined the human approach to, and understanding of, landscape. The scale of mansions of Georgian England gentry, for example, when compared with that of neighboring farmers' cottages broke “the scale by an act of will corresponding to their real and systematic domination of others” (Tuan 1979:92). The house, along with vast gardens and lawns, and the bounding of the land with a network of fences, was intended as a statement to outsiders declaring the social, financial, and political status of the inhabitants. The spread and ever increasing dominance of a capitalistic culture ensured the pervasiveness of this notion of landscape and has codified the commodification of landscape as an object to be altered, measured, partitioned, and examined with “eyes of an appraiser, assigning a monetary value” with an eye to the market value (Meinig 1979: 41, Thomas 2001).

Landscape as an entity continued and continues to be parceled into analytic units. These units include “discrete entities or events” (Thomas 2001:167) that, when mapped, delineate topography and landforms of a given place, archaeological site locations, or historic events. Indeed, when first beginning this project, I examined a map of Camp White as one such unit. This discrete entity, (Camp White) exists as a discrete event (its construction) in history. Only a sudden realization allowed me to look past the function of this map and realize the existence of the Beagle landscape that had been subsumed by Camp White.

Another unit of landscape analysis is that of a problem to be beautified, fixed, and/or fought. In any phone book under "Landscape" can be found landscape architects, contractors, and designers whose business is to alter the landscape in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons: deer proofing, installation of "low maintenance" designs, or the creation of a "look" currently in vogue. All of these have merit but there is a suggestion, particularly in the last instance, of the imposition of human will on a static object, not the interdependent creation this paper seeks to explore.

Finally, landscape has been analyzed as an artifact and this is indeed one component of this study of the Beagle landscape. But these findings are folded into the other elements that comprised and comprise the Beagle landscape.

The traditional ways of looking at landscape, then, have in common the trait of objectifying landscape and creating a sense of things being statically "in place" (Meinig 1979, Lewis 1979, Buttimer 1980, Bender 2001, Ireland 2003). The observer is detached from the object (landscape) observed and similarly, the behaviors within, human or otherwise, occupy and operate within separate spheres.

It was within the field of geography that definitions of landscape were reevaluated. As an outgrowth of sociological studies in the United States that considered the effects and significance of destruction of "place" on the inhabitants in the frenzied days of 1960s "urban renewal", theorists in cultural geography began to consider landscape as a holistically created entity. Even so, as D. W.

Meinig writes in his introduction to *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*, geographers are warned not to “aspire to a clean and clear definition (of landscape) and to be surprised at some variation in usage among the seven authors of this volume” (Meinig 1979:2). It is the idea that “all human landscape has cultural meaning” (Lewis 1979:12) and that the human landscape is “our unwitting autobiography, reflecting our tastes, our values, our aspirations, and even our fears, in tangible, visible form” (ibid) that is most pertinent to this project.

Yi-Fu Tuan, one of the contributors, discussed another aspect of landscape integral to this project. Understanding that “landscape...is elusive and difficult to describe in a phrase” (Tuan 1979:89), Tuan also understands that “landscape...is not to be defined by itemizing its parts. The parts are subsidiary clues to an integrated image” (ibid).

More recently, geographers J. Douglas Porteous and Sandra E. Smith have suggested that when the strong central attachment to this integrated image, or “home”, is destroyed, an act of domicide has been committed. In *Domicide: The Global Destruction of Home* (2001), Porteous and Smith advance the argument that domicide is “the planned, deliberate destruction of home causing suffering to the dweller” who has been forcibly removed for “the common good” (Porteous and Smith 2001: 19). The people affected are neither considered to be refugees, exiles, nor homeless “for they generally find a roof” (ibid). Porteous and Smith

argue that, nevertheless, they are the victims of a “moral evil” perpetrated in “the pursuit of profit, progress, or plan” (ibid: 22).

It is these varied dialogues within cultural geography that informed current landscape theory within the field of archaeology. Space and land have been integral to this field since its inception as “the backdrop against which archaeological remains are plotted” (Knapp and Ashmore 1999: 1). Up until the last fifteen years, American pre-contact landscapes have been variously categorized as resource providers, arbiters of settlement patterns, or a factor that informs constructed projectile point and ceramic typologies. “Landscape archaeology” is the rubric under which “evidence of settlement and subsistence” are studied while “monuments associated with ritual and ceremonial” are the domain of “social archaeology” (Bradley in Knapp and Ashmore 1999:6). In other words, an objectified “passive backdrop or forcible determinant of culture” (ibid: 2), not a component of archaeological theory.

In the 1990s, as cultural geographers had done fifteen years earlier, archaeologists began questioning the validity of parsing landscape into discrete units. Post-processual archaeological landscape theory recognizes that “the study of landscape is much more than an academic exercise-it *is* about the complexity of people's lives, historical contingency, contestation, motivation, and change” (emphasis in the original; Bender 2001:2). While Julian Thomas (2001) concedes that this new understanding of landscape “will still require that we identify and plot the traces of past activity in the countryside (Thomas 2001: 181),

he too understands that landscape must be recognized as “a set of relationships between people and places which provide the context for everyday conduct” (ibid).

This theoretical understanding of landscape also informs current archaeological studies of war. Particularly germane to this project is the study of twentieth century warfare, a field in its infancy. Nicholas Saunders, in his studies of the Western Front in Europe, chooses to view this area not through the traditional lens of military history, (much in the way Beagle is seen (or not seen) via its connection with Camp White), but rather “as a palimpsest of overlapping, multi-vocal landscapes” (Saunders 2001:37). Saunders, in his anthropologically informed archaeological investigations of the Great War, seeks to underscore that this conflict “created new landscapes infused with new meanings” (Saunders 2002:106).

Saunders understands that “landscapes exist as cultural images (i.e. graphic representations) as well as physical places” (Saunders 2001: 40). Like the landscape of Beagle, the Western Front held memories of loved ones. He further states that “conflicts may live on as histories and propaganda-shaping attitudes, behavior and material culture towards war even in times of peace” (Saunders 2002:101).

The Beagle landscape holds something else in common with that of the Western Front: the forgotten debris of unexploded ordinance. The Great War of 1914-1918 was the first to leave a battlefield landscape that could “now kill and

main indiscriminately, long after conflict had been resolved, and long after the original protagonists had passed away and direct memory of events faded” (Saunders 2001:46). While on a much smaller scale, this dynamic exists at Beagle today and is one component of the post-war landscape.

It is all of the components and the interdependent and holistic nature of the Beagle landscape that is a primary focus for this project and it is suggested that the Beagle landscape is comprised of many landscapes (work, play, land, community, people, archaeological features, memory) that fundamentally interweave to make a comprehensive whole.

One analytic key for this study, then, relies primarily on the idea of landscape as a relational or symbiotic structure within which humans are engaged (Thomas 2001: 181). Thomas has stated that this construction of landscape acknowledges a spatial component but is concerned primarily with the "culture and social relations, power and politics, identity and experience" (Thomas 2001:166), a component of which is memory.

Social memory, like traditional ideas of landscape, is constructed. Cultural critic Andreas Huyssen suggests that “the remarkable upsurge of “memory practices” in today’s “memory culture” seeks to invoke the past as a space of stable relationships, known boundaries, and sense of place-those attributes construed to be absent from contemporary life” (Rosenberg 2003: 117).

Memories that do not coincide with this “memory culture” are ignored. These memories, though “exiled from public airing and discussion [and] confined to a

private realm” (Walker 2003: 66) remain vivid in the minds of those affected and their descendants, and in localized oral tradition. Mr. Phillip Sweet, a boy of nine at the time of removal from Beagle, can remember the exact amount his grandmother was paid for her house and land. The anger expressed in this seventy-four year-old man’s voice today as he relates this figure reflects the enduring life of memory and its place within the landscape of Beagle.

Similarly, Mark Walker’s archaeological work at Ludlow, Colorado, recognizes that “submerged histories are not static fossil forms existing in isolation from the dominant historical narratives...they are bound up with contemporary issues and struggles” (Walker 2003: 66; see also The Ludlow Collective). So too are the people of Beagle, a group of poor, undereducated farmers. As Mr. Sweet recalls, Beagle residents, unlike some similarly placed, could not afford either the lawyers or legal fees necessary to file suit in an attempt to gain more equitable compensation (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 18, 2003). These class-related issues have not disappeared. Indeed in a culture that increasingly embraces the acquisition of power and money as its most desired and dominant value, such issues are still very relevant.

One aspect of power is the control of a nation’s historical narrative. An enlisted man, a WAC, a five-star general, and a resident of Beagle will all have different memories of the Second World War. It is those of the general, however, that will be, more often than not, incorporated into the national narrative. The question then arises: where do the events at Beagle and other communities

similarly treated fit into the constructed “memory culture” of the Second World War? Their situation, little recognized and under-reported at the time, has been consistently submerged under the now dominant national narrative of World War II. This project represents an effort to incorporate the memories of the Beagle landscape into this national narrative.

Previous Research

In researching this project, I was surprised at the lack of popular literature on this subject. The majority of the investigation or writing about the military's displacement of citizens during World War II appears to exist at the local level in historical societies, self-published works, locally published or academic books. There are, however, exceptions to this within the "gray literature" produced by United States government agencies.

Among these, the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory (HCRL) Oral History and Ethnography Task (Prendergast 2003) is one of the most extensive. In 1943, the land on which the current Department of Energy Hanford Site resides, (see www.hanford.gov), was acquired by the military, displacing the rural residents. Initially a plutonium producing facility for the Manhattan Project, the site continued to produce nuclear energy after the war. Unlike the residents of Beagle, those forced off their land for the Hanford project were never able to return. The HCRL began collecting data on the history of the area in 1987. The oral interviews of groups "associated with the Early Settlers and Farming Landscape and the Native American Cultural Landscape" (ibid:7), however, evidence no "systematic approach" to their collection.

It was not until 2000 that The Oral History and Ethnography Task evolved. Framing its project within the same theoretical model used for Beagle, the HCRL at this time began "...pursuing a holistic preservation and interpretive approach to the documentation of cultural resources, working within the concept of cultural

landscapes to ensure DOE-RL's compliance with historic preservation requirements" (Predergast 2003:1). The Oral History and Ethnography Task, "was formalized to begin systematically collecting oral history and ethnographic data to document each of the three cultural landscapes on the Hanford Site" (ibid.: 8). The three such landscapes documented are Native American, Early Settlers and Farming, and the Manhattan Project/Cold War landscapes (ibid: 8 & 13). There are two goals of this recent work. The first is "to add the human dimension to the archaeological and historical data...collected for each landscape" (ibid: 2) and secondly, "to use the method as an additional means for verifying cultural and historical attributes associated with Hanford's cultural resources" (ibid: 3).

Imprint on the Land: Life Before Camp Hood 1820-1942 (2001) also details an overall history of an area (Coryell and Bell counties in Texas) of military activity. In the 1990s, Fort Hood contracted with Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI) "to conduct a series of studies relating to the historic sites scattered across its 339 square miles of land" (Pugsley 2001:ix). In contrast to this thesis, however, this work was prepared specifically as a "popular history book" which utilized "specialized and, admittedly, rather dry" (ibid:vii) historical and archaeological data gathered over a number of years. Because it is an overall history, *Imprint on the Land* examines eras that this thesis does not. The author does include, however, portions of oral interviews with residents displaced by the construction of then Camp Hood, providing a small amount of data for comparison with the residents of Beagle.

George Kramer's *Camp White: City in the Agate Desert* (1992), a book published in Medford, Oregon, devotes four brief paragraphs to Beagle, giving an overview of the situation, the resistance to the camp, and comments on the aftermath. Kramer's focus obviously was Camp White itself. His cursory treatment of Beagle speaks more to the place the destruction of this community (and by extension, other such communities) holds within the national narrative of World War II than it does to the need to disseminate information about Beagle.

C. Calvin Smith, writing in *War and Wartime Changes: The Transformation of Arkansas 1940-1945* (1986) devotes more detail to the subject. In three long paragraphs, he delineates the battle of leasing vs. purchasing. Farmers in Arkansas remembered the lease arrangement they had had with the government in World War I and the unusable condition of their land when it was returned at the war's end. This time, if they had to lose their land, they wanted to sell it. When they met with a negative response, they formed the "Home Owners of Camp Robinson Extension Area Association" (Smith 1986: 24). But they were outmaneuvered at every turn. Bitter, they felt themselves to be "...victims of discrimination because we're not educated and lodge members" (ibid: 24-25). There are echoes of such sentiments in Beagle and as such, this work also serves as source of comparison.

In searching for archaeological excavation or survey project reports germane to this project, I discovered the National Archaeological Data Base (NADB). In order to search the NADB, it is necessary to know the appropriate county and

state. Searching in Jackson County, I found two reports that appeared to be pertinent to my project. They were on file with the Medford office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) but turned out to be disappointing. *The Antioch/Meadows Burl Sale* (Hale 1996) proved to be about six miles from my area of focus and, doing compliance driven field survey, the team reported no findings after 3 ½ hours of survey.

The Antelope Area was the small arms range for Camp White and the residents of that area suffered the same fate as the people in Beagle. I was hoping to find data in *The Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Antelope Project Area* (Stepp 2000), to compare with my findings at Beagle. The team, however, focused on Native sites. They did note a “miscellaneous find” of interest: a United States Army brass cap reference marker dated 1942 (ibid: 7).

After these two disappointments, I was excited to discover the work of Judith E. Thomas of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute. She is also associated with the work at Fort Hood, Texas and conducted an archaeological investigation of the Dorn Site (Thomas 2006), an individual home site vacated in 1954 due to the expansion of Fort Hood. Funded by the United States Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Mercyhurst College, the project’s objectives include the “identification, definition, and characterization of the sites extant architectural and archaeological remains” as well as “archival research to further elucidate” the site’s occupational history (ibid: 3) More specifically, Thomas examined “the process of abandonment itself” (ibid: 2) and found that “the cultural materials

recovered from excavations at the Dorn site reflect some of the decision processes that the Dorns faced...” when they left.

While Thomas does not frame this current work within the same theoretical framework of this thesis, her work is an important contribution to the growing body of work studying this segment of World War II history. More specifically, her work with the patterns of abandonment in such circumstances will be invaluable if excavations are ever carried out on the Beagle landscape.

Research Methodologies

This project examines the history of the farming community of Beagle, Oregon prior to, during, and after the Second World War. It seeks to explore this history through a prism of landscape defined as the symbiotic relationship between land and people. The primary research questions, then, are these: Does the Beagle landscape still exist? What was the social and cultural impact on the Beagle landscape due to the construction of Camp White in 1942? What was the immediate and long term adaptation by the residents to this disruption of community and place? Finally, what was the impact of military use on the archaeological record of the Beagle landscape?

In answering these questions, this project also seeks to shed more light on a little known segment of the history of World War II; the displacement of Americans due to the construction or expansion military bases and training facilities. Finally, it hopes to enhance the current national narrative about the Second World War by adding the previously excluded voices of the residents of Beagle.

In order to answer the research questions, a variety of methodologies are utilized and are detailed in the following paragraphs. Of these, two deserve further comment.

There were two daily newspapers in Medford, Oregon during the 1930s, the morning Daily News and the afternoon Mail Tribune. The former had populist roots while the latter had ties to the Medford elite in the form of its owner and

editor, Robert W. Ruhl (LaLande 1994). While wildly different in editorial policy, the newspapers spoke with one voice in support of the construction of Camp White. The news items used for this project reflect this support, anticipation, problems, and events leading up to the camp's construction.

Secondly, a word needs to be said about oral histories. Oral histories and interviews are effective (and sometimes the only) tools to gain information and insights into an understanding of "place". This can include the details of daily life, the understood "boundaries" of a rural community, the ideologies of residents, kin, and other social connections within the community, identification, use, and significance of the former built environment, and social activities (after Barber 1994:27-28). Oral histories are, in other words, a valuable method for determining emic (resident insider) perspectives of a landscape using interviews with living informants.

Oral histories are memories. Memories that have a sharpened focus concerning certain events and a more blurred recollection of others, especially forty years or more after the fact. Memory can also detail a sentiment rather than a hard fact. Each resident of Beagle will not have identical memories of the landscape and events discussed here. The histories used for this project, then, are gleaned primarily for points of consensus in order to arrive at a general understanding of the pre- and post-war Beagle landscape. Personal memories of events unique to an individual are used as well to further facilitate the recreation of the Beagle landscape in the reader's mind.

One final note. For this project, I have concentrated on those residents that lived north of present day State Highway 234 and in relative close proximity to the intersection of Beagle and Antioch roads. The reason for this is that the majority of orally generated material associated with this project are from people who lived in this area. This also narrowed the scope of my research to the people and areas nearest the built landscape of Beagle, other than homes. That is, the school, cemetery, and post office/store.

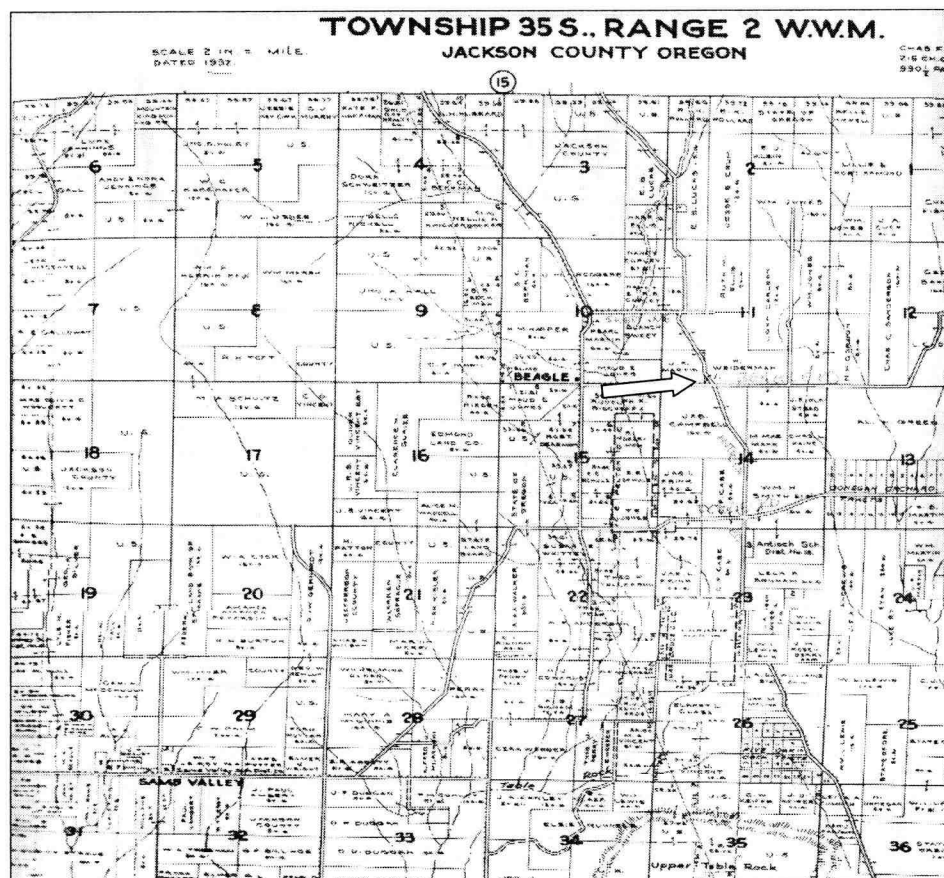


Figure 2. 1932 Metsker map. Arrow points to actual location of Beagle post office.

Archival and Document Research

In order to facilitate the construction of an appropriate context within which the oral history and emic (Beagle resident) data can be evaluated, an array of archival materials and documents are utilized. These include newspapers, photographs (both aerial and personal), Metsker (Figure 2) and U.S. Army maps, property deeds, census data, Congressional legislative records, and associated ancillary government documentation of this legislation.

Newspapers

In the pre-war period, a column in the Medford Mail Tribune titled “County Briefs” (Figure 3) detailed the happenings in the outlying rural communities of Jackson County. These columns detail the minutiae of a largely rural valley: who is visiting whom, for how long, trips taken, etc. These serve not only to give details of life in Jackson County, but also illustrate the connection of Beagle and other rural areas to the Medford and the valley as a whole.

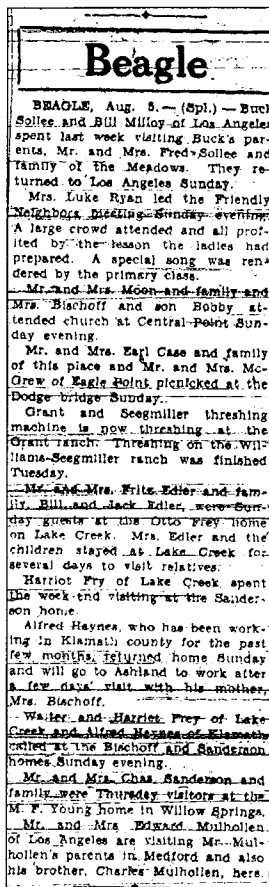


Figure 3. "County Briefs" column detailing different social and work related activity. August 5, 1932, Medford Mail Tribune.

The Tribune was also a rich source detailing the frenzied speculation concerning the construction of Camp White. Rumors and speculations about where, when, and if the camp would be built were front-page news for almost a year. The fate, however, of their rural counterparts was lost in the excitement of possibility. The contemporary newspaper accounts helped to document the "rural vs. urban" aspect of this event.

Maps

Metsker maps delineated property boundaries as well as the names of the property owners. The 1932 Metsker map of the Beagle area, Township 35S,

Range 2 W. Willamette Meridian, is nearest in date to the 1930 census (see census data) and was the one used most intensively for this project. In fact, the 1932 map is the earliest Metsker map of Jackson County to be found.

Interestingly, I discovered that the 1932 Metsker map contained an error. The Beagle post office was located one mile west of its actual location. This mistake was not corrected until 1973.

The United States War Department produced maps that detailed the evolution of privately owned lands into Camp White. I located two at the Oregon State Archives that I have used for this project. The first, a final project map entitled, "Real Estate Beagle Area Camp White Military Reservation" (Map #14, Map Drawer #13, Oregon Military Department, accession 90A-23 Maps, Plans and Drawings) is essentially a Metskers map. In addition to the Metsker information, however, the military added tables that list each owner, acreage owned, property instrument used to transfer ownership (Warranty Deed or Deed of Trust), date of property transfer, and numbered deed book and page.

The second map is a later version, the War Department's map of the Beagle Area. Minus the names, it delineates guns positions, the mortar and sub-caliber impact area, moving target range, etc.

Aerial Photographs

Obtaining aerial photographs of this area has been difficult. As far as I have been able to determine, War Department aerial photographs of the Beagle Area are on record only at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I also queried,

online, the Pacific Alaska regional records of the Archives located in Seattle, Washington. These records, however, contain information and photographs pertaining primarily to Washington State and Portland, Oregon. The Jackson County Assessor's office, however, does have aerial photographs from 1952. Unfortunately, Jackson County closed its archives in 2004 when the longtime archivist retired. The records were transferred to a private storage facility to which the public does not have direct access. Instead, materials must be requested through the appropriate county office.

In searching for the aerial photos, I was unable to obtain a complete set from 1952 as one photograph was missing from the files in the Jackson County Courthouse. Because the staff of the private storage facility are not trained archivists and unable to understand the records of the former archivist, I was unable to get a copy of the missing photo (Julie, personal communication, 2005). There are, however, enough sections available to illustrate both the destruction of the Beagle landscape and the evolution of the post war Beagle landscape when compared with a modern Bureau of Land Management (BLM) aerial photograph obtained at the Medford, Oregon office of the BLM.

The lack of ready access to the Jackson County archives was a common problem in attempting to study county records. In one instance, attempting to research personal property tax records, I was informed that a \$50.00 an hour research charge would apply. Unable to afford this fee, I was resigned to

completing this thesis without the tax information. But as all researchers know, half the battle is finally connecting with the person who is willing to work with you. At a late stage in this project, I was finally able to acquire the property tax information from the archives.

Congressional Legislation

The taking of private property by the United States government for use during wartime has a long history of legislation and debate. From *A Bill to Provide for the Payment of Person Whose Property May Be Impressed in the Service of the United States* read before the United States House of Representatives in 1814, to the emergency legislation of 1917 *Dealing with the Control and Taking of Private Property for the Public Use, Benefit, or Welfare* property, both private and commercial property has been confiscated. For the purposes of this work, however, legislation that was directly related to World War II was reviewed.

Additionally, government documentation such as *Acquisition and Use of Land For Military and War Production Purposes (Acquisition, 1947)* that discussed and delineated the implementation of the above legislation was a valuable source of information.

Census

The 1860 census is used to glean information concerning the holders of the first Donation Land Claim in the Beagle area and the 1880 census is used for the same purpose concerning William Beagle. The primary census data utilized for

this project, however, is the 1930 population schedule, the most recent currently available for research. In order to better understand the community of Beagle, I analyzed gender, age, employment, and place of birth.

Oral Histories

During my research, my first contact was with Mr. Phillip Sweet in 2003. We then met in May at the Antioch cemetery and spoke informally for about an hour. Mr. Sweet, in turn, directed me to Mr. Morris Frink. Mr. Frink then pointed me in the direction of three present day residents in the Beagle area, Doris Walker, Linda Davis and Catherine Kizer, who conducted oral history interviews with about twenty former residents in 2001-2003. In addition, these women gathered family photos from those they interviewed. They do not have a research design, merely a passionate desire to preserve the memories of former residents of the area. Mrs. Walker very graciously gave me six of these taped interviews as well as copies of the photographs. I spoke with Doris Walker (2006) and though the three women have no official name, she suggested the Beagle History Interest Group (BHIG) for the purposes of this paper. The name, however, on the legal release form they had people sign is the Sams Valley Citizen's Advisory Committee (SVCAC). I have chosen to use both as a reference. The interviews utilized from this group are:

Morris Frink, interviewed in 2001.

Robert Sanderson, interviewed in 2001.

Lois (Glass) West, interviewed in 2002.

Charlotte Sweet, interviewed in 2002.

Ina Pearl Hilkey, interviewed in 2003.

All participants were in their seventies and eighties when interviewed.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society also conducted oral interviews with several former Beagle residents in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The five interviews used for this project include:

Fred Elvin Inlow, interviewed in 1982.

Gladys Rose Morgan Blackford, interviewed in 1982.

Millie Hazel Gordon Glass and Matty Gordon Rodgers, interviewed in 1988.

Thelma Agnes Beers, interviewed in 1991.

Charlotte Sweet, interviewed in 1991.

These individuals were in their seventies, eighties, and nineties when interviewed.

Toponymy

For communities like Beagle that have been literally wiped off the map, the cultural memory of the area comes to reside in former residents and near neighbors. While researching this project, I encountered several life-long residents of the Rogue Valley who had never heard of Beagle. In a conversation recently with a forty-something employee in the Jackson County assessor's office, and a native of the area, I found that she too had never heard of Beagle.

In the face of such oblivion, place names take on a very important role and provide valuable historical keys as well as validation for those residents that

returned to the area after the war. These names serve not only to reconnect them to the area but also as a reminder of loss. Further, these place names come to take on an increasingly important role as a historical place-holder when those with first hand knowledge of Beagle have all died.

Personal Photographs

Doris Walker and the other women of the Beagle History Interest Group, as part of their mission, gathered family photographs from the people they interviewed. She has very generously shared these with me, resulting in a plethora of photographs to choose from. I have chosen a small fraction of these to illustrate an activity and/or social group discussed in the oral interviews. Additionally, I have used photographs of homes and farms to facilitate the recreation of the Beagle infrastructure in the reader's minds. I also investigated the Eagle Point and Southern Oregon Historical Societies files and have chosen samples from these collections as well.

Archaeological Field Survey

Due to financial constraints, archaeological excavation was not possible for this project. The archaeological data rely on that collected from field survey. These data were analyzed in an attempt to ascertain the nature of the change, through time, on two different sites within the Beagle landscape and to offer an hypothesis regarding the effect of military use on the archaeological record. One site, the former Sweet farmhouse, was in an area of high artillery impact. The

Sweet family repurchased the property after the war and though it has been reoccupied, the footprint of the former home is in a corner of an unused portion of the property. The second site is that of the Antioch school. The school was directly adjacent to the Antioch cemetery and an area the military consciously tried to avoid when shelling.

Results

Beagle

Natural Setting

Beagle is located in the upper portion of the Rogue River drainage basin in Jackson County of southwest Oregon (Figure 4). While the Rogue Valley was formed by one of the river's main tributaries, Bear Creek, Beagle was located northeast of the Table Rocks, in a portion of the valley formed by the Rogue River itself near its northern most point and terminating near Trail, Oregon. The Bear Creek valley trends to the northwest from its sources in the Cascades and joins the Rogue River southwest of the lower Table Rock. Bear Creek valley is shaped roughly like an elongated funnel, widening gradually for approximately two-thirds of its length to a maximum of approximately eight miles (Strahorn 1913:6).



Figure 4. Oregon map with project area. Arrow points to vicinity of Camp White and Beagle. Source: Magellan Geographix www.infoplease.com/atlas/state/oregon.html.

The Rogue Valley is bounded to the south by the Siskiyou Mountains that range generally east to west along the current Oregon-California border. To the east run the volcanic peaks of the north to south ranging Western and High Cascades (Gray 1987:5). Mt McLoughlin (or, as longtime residents call it, Mt. Pitt), rising approximately thirty miles to the east, forms a portion of the Beagle visual landscape. And Beagle is located in what is known as the “Agate Desert,” an area “well known for its abundance of naturally occurring jaspers, cherts, agates, and quartzites” (Stepp 2000:7). A distinctive soil with a high clay component that appears across the landscape was known to Beagle residents as the “Big Sticky” and the “Little Sticky.” Soil that was more suited for farming was known as “Free Soil”. Indeed, the original Surveyor General’s plat map of July 30, 1855, denoted the soil as “2nd rate, gravelly clay loam” (Figure 5)

The area’s climate is characterized by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Approximately 75 percent of the annual precipitation falls from November through March. While precipitation increases with elevation, on the valley floor Medford has a yearly mean precipitation of 18.37 inches. Snowfall on the floor is generally negligible with a yearly mean snowfall in Medford of 4.9 inches while heavy snowfall occurs at 4,500 feet and above (www.ocs.orst.edu/Reports/dat5429.html).

It is not known why EuroAmericans chose to settle in what would become the Beagle area. The mix of soils described above made for a patchwork of tillable and non-tillable ground. Access to water is abundant (Figure 6), however, and,

again, as noted in the original 1855 survey, the area was considered good grazing land (Figure 5). These two factors perhaps explain, at least in part, the decision of settlers to stay.

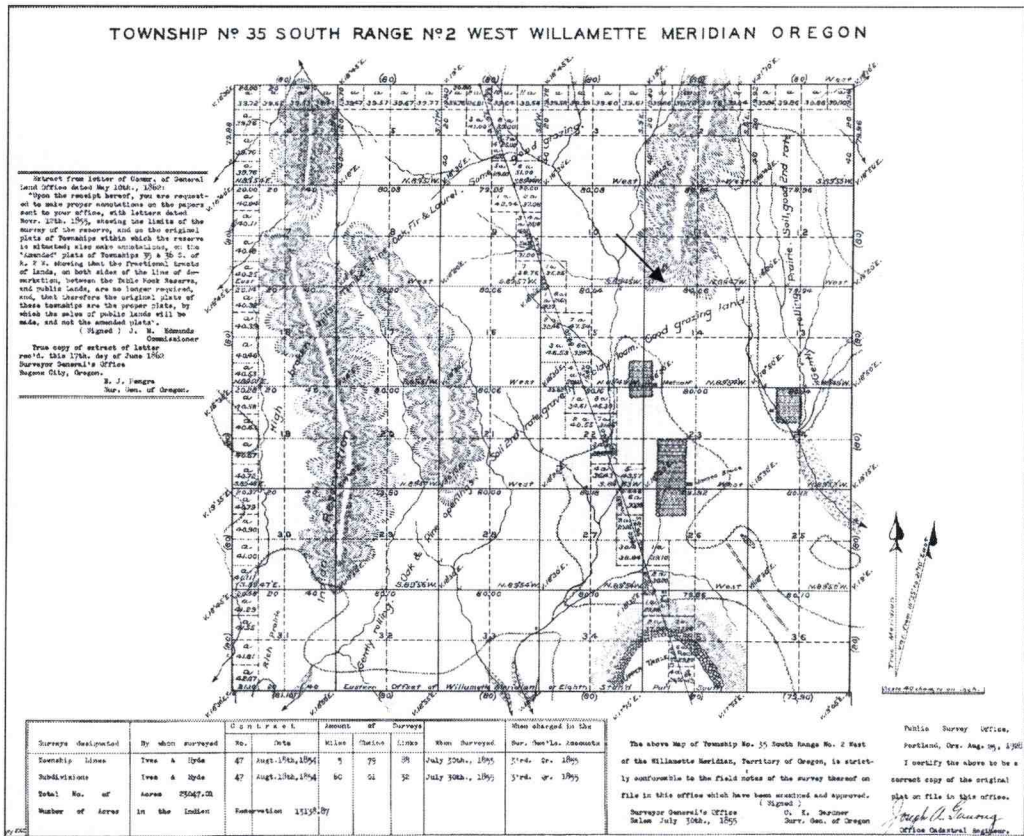


Figure 5. Surveyor General's Cadastral Survey map, Township 35 South, Range 2 West, Willamette Meridian. Originally surveyed July 30, 1855. Annotated June 1862. Arrow points to future intersection of Beagle and Antioch roads. Source: www.aocweb.org/blm_or/rPlatView, accessed 10/31/06.

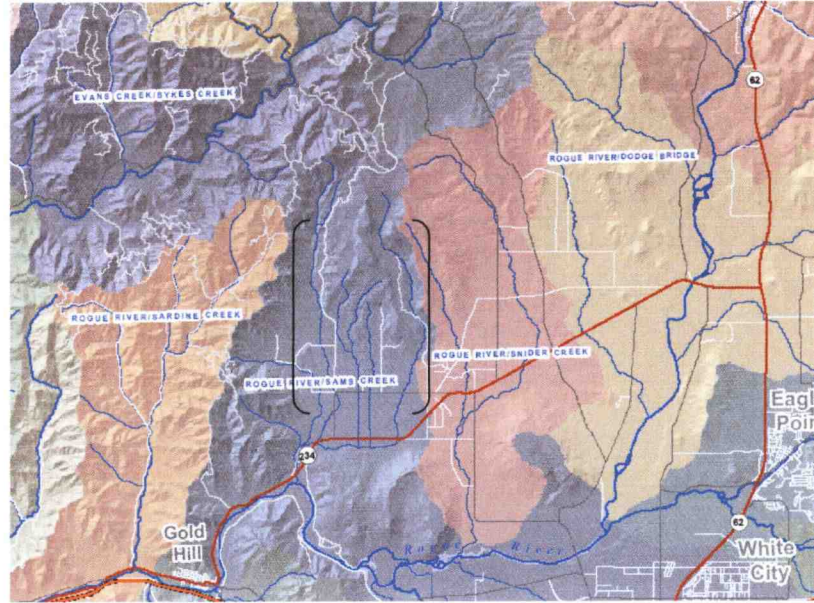


Figure 6. Jackson County, Oregon Hydrology Map, Sixth Field Watershed. General project area is bracketed. Source: Jackson County SmartMap, <http://www.smartmap.org>.

Historical Context

Donation Land Claims and the Settling of Beagle

The interaction of southwest Oregon Native residents and non-Natives is first documented in the journal of British explorer George Vancouver recounting his 1792 North Pacific voyage (Schwartz 1997:21). After 1820, the original inhabitants of the Rogue Valley, the Takelma, became increasingly aware of the ever-growing parade of non-Natives into their world. “Fur-brigade treks in the 1830s and 1840s” (Atwood 1994:522) and the opening, in 1846, of the Southern Emigrant Road of the Oregon Trail facilitated, over the next two years, the influx of 800 to 900 Americans from the East (Douthit 1994). The discovery, in 1850, of gold in southern Oregon (Atwood 1994), was a further inducement for the establishment of permanent Euroamerican settlements in the valley.

The passage in 1850 of the Donation Land Claim Act paved the way for federally recognized permanent residency within the Oregon Territory. To further solidify the United States' claim on its portion of the Territory as delineated by the treaty ratified with Great Britain on June 18, 1846, the Donation Land Claim Act encouraged American settlement by "donating" land to those willing to reside on and cultivate the property. The act distinguished between current residents and aspirants residing east of the Mississippi. To white American citizens or "American half-breed Indians" above the age of 18 and resident in the Territory at the time of the act's passage, 320 acres were available for "donation" to single men and 640 acres to a married couple. For those arriving in the Territory "between the first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty, and the first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty-three", 160 acres were allotted to single men 21 years old and older and 320 acres to married couples.

The Surveyor General's Office map of 1857 (Figure 7) shows that C.E. Pelton, and James Bruce settled the earliest DLC plots (160 acres each), in the Beagle area (South Township 35 Range 2 West WM).

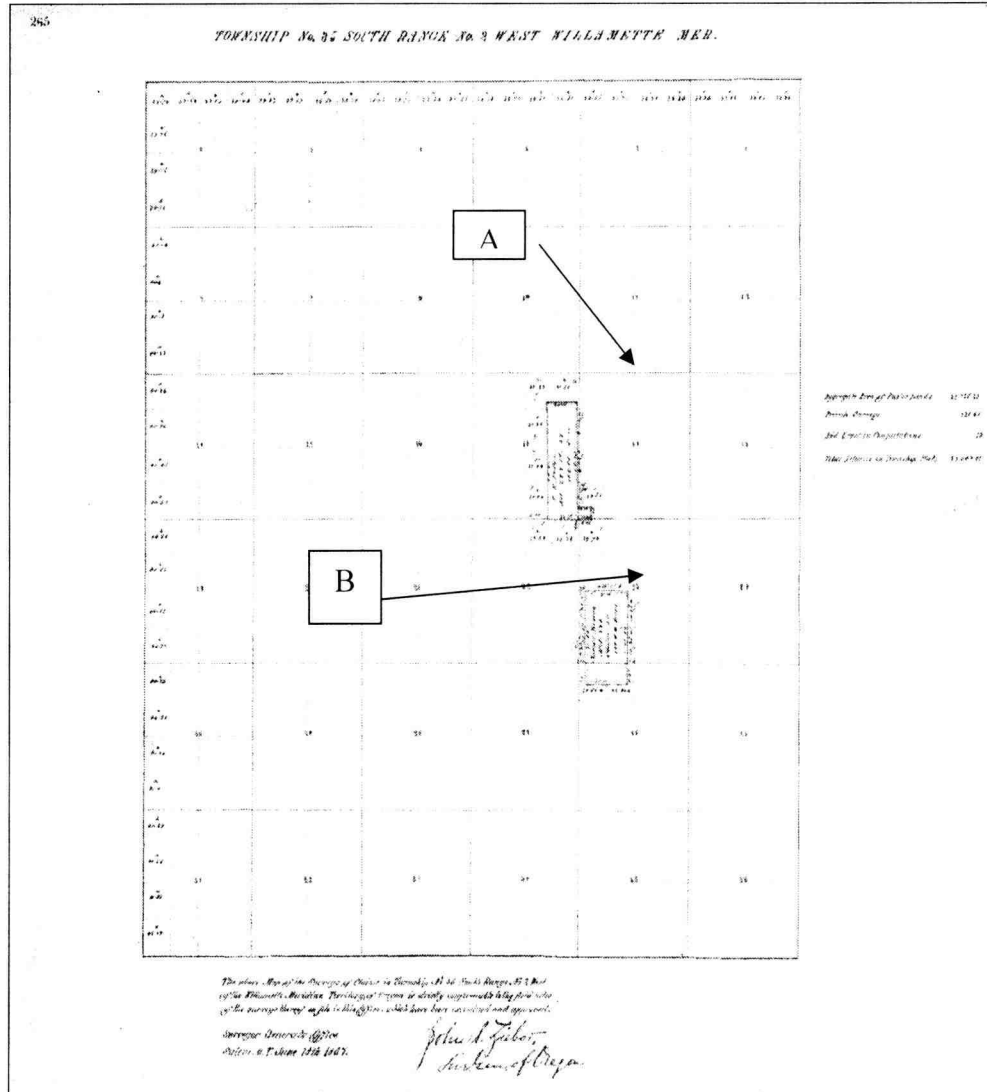


Figure 7. 1857 DLC map showing the Bruce and Pelton claims. Arrow A indicates future location of Beagle Post Office and store and Arrow B indicates later school and cemetery land.

The 1860 census identifies James Bruce, originally from Indiana, as a prosperous farmer with reported assets of \$3000 in real estate and a personal estate valued at \$4000. By 1870, Bruce and his family had left the Beagle area.

C. E. Pelton, originally from Arkansas and identified as a stock grower in 1860, was either deceased or otherwise gone from the Beagle area by 1870. His

wife Mary had remarried John Siseman and still lived in the area with their two children and three sons from her first marriage to Pelton.

Parenthetically, Mr. Frink recalls a log cabin on his family's farm that was reputed to be the second oldest such structure in Jackson County (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). This is indeed possible as the northern portion of the Frink property borders the Pelton DLC to the east while the southern portion of their land borders the Bruce DLC to the south.

Settlers continued to arrive in the Rogue Valley and included at least three Civil War veterans. Two of them, David Burch and George Baulet, resided in Beagle in 1890 (Special Schedule, US Census 1890). In 1872, a third veteran, thirty-one year old William Beagle, his wife Jenny, children Thomas and Ersula, and possibly Beagle's mother Mary, arrived in the Rogue Valley from Missouri (Population Schedule, US Census 1880). The former drummer in the Confederate Army settled near the ByBee Bridge in what is now TouVelle State Park. He later moved to the Debenger Gap, a portion of the area that later came to be called "Beagle Country" (Follansbee 1989:3).

On November 11, 1885, postal authorities appointed William Beagle the area's first postmaster (McArthur 1982:46). This first post office was established in Beagle's home, approximately one mile from the location of the later permanent structure. The population continued to grow and by 1900, the U. S. Census reports 250 men, women, and children within the Table Rock Precinct. The area's population remained fairly constant during the next 30 years.

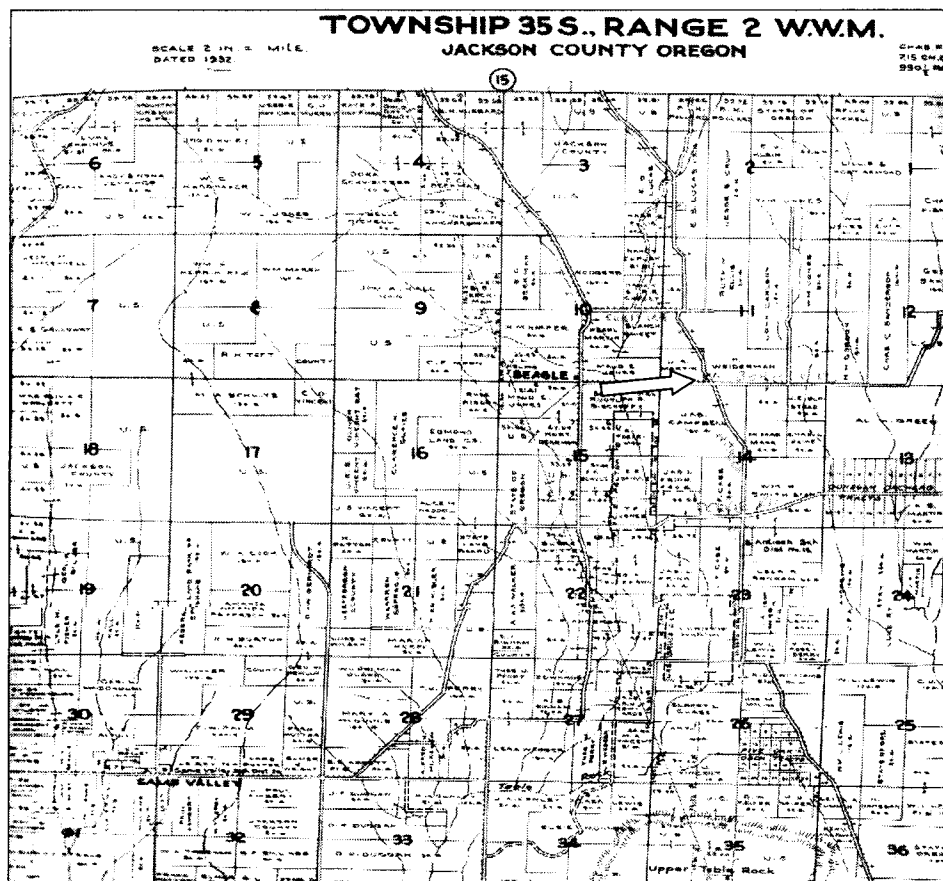


Figure 8. 1932 Metsker map. Arrow points to actual location of Beagle post-office.

1930 Census Data

In 1930, Beagle was a community of approximately 273. Of the 77 heads of household enumerated in the United States census of that year, 49 men and 2 women or 66% of the total listed their occupation as “farmer” while approximately 8% described themselves as “farm laborer” and 4% as “ranch stockmen.” 78% of the Beagle employed, then, made their living in either farming or ranching. Of the remaining 22% heads of household, 8 individuals or 10.4% are listed as unemployed. Age would appear to be a determining factor for

four in this group as those so listed are 69 to 82 years old. Of the remaining four, one unemployed female head of household is 50, and three male unemployed heads of household are 54, 38, and 38.

Those occupations attributed to non-head of household residents ranged from farm laborer, secretary, teacher, and one self identified writer of fiction (Table 1). One Lee Mitchell, a fifty-year-old boarder with the Otto Rutger family, listed his occupation as jockey and his place of employment as a racetrack. Considering that Portland Meadows was not established until 1946 and legalized betting on horse races would not be reestablished on the Northern Californian county fair circuit until later in the decade, a question arises as to whether this was a truthful statement. Mr. Mitchell may have been “between jobs” or simply tweaking the nose of the Federal government.

Table 1-Beagle Residents-Occupations from 1930 Census Population Schedule.
Age determined by the youngest women and men to list an occupation.

OCCUPATIONS	WOMEN AGE 19 & UP	MEN/BOYS AGE 16 & UP
Farmer	2	49
Laborers		
Farm	0	25
Saw Mill	0	1
Sheep Camp	0	1
Orchard	1	1
Ranching	0	1
Other	0	1
Logger	0	7
Stockman	0	3
Orchardist	0	1
Mechanic (Auto)	0	2
Caretaker (Summer House)	0	1
Secretary	1	0
Teacher	1	0
Housemaid	1	0
Miner	0	1
Writer (of fiction)	0	1

While farming was the mainstay of the people, the background of the people themselves is a quintessential example of the propensity of Americans to move about the United States. Of the 273 residents of Beagle in 1930, nearly 47% or 128 people were native Oregonians. The birthplaces of the remaining 53% represent 24 different states and 7 foreign countries. Almost all regions of the United States are represented by the population of Beagle: the South (Tennessee, Arkansas), the Midwest (Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas), the

Upper Midwest and Dakotas (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota), the Northeast (New York, Pennsylvania), the Southwest (Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas), and the Pacific Northwest/West (California, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana). The seven foreign born residents hailed from England, Switzerland, French Canada, Germany, and Holland. The youngest of these was 43 and the oldest 82 years old.

Table 2-Beagle Residents- Place of Birth from 1930 Census Population Schedule.

AGE GROUPS	BIRTHPLACE-OREGON	BIRTHPLACE-STATE OTHER	BIRTHPLACE-FOREIGN
WOMEN			
61-90		5	
51-60	4	11	
41-50	5	11	1
31-40	3	10	
19-30	6	9	
16-18	2	4	
0-15	30	17	
MEN			
61-90	3	14	2
51-60	5	16	2
41-50	6	12	2
31-40	4	11	
19-30	15	5	
16-18	11	1	
0-15	34	11	

These numbers are representative of the patterns of immigration for the United States. Foreign born residents are all over the age of forty and were part of the wave of immigration during the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the twentieth century. By the time of the 1930 census, immigration had slowed

considerably. Significantly, the highest figures of native born Oregonians are represented by girls and boys age fifteen and under, indicative of a growing and thriving community.

Surviving the Great Depression

In common with many Americans during the Great Depression, the struggle to keep a roof over one's head and food on the table was paramount. While the occupation of "farmer" was claimed by 66% of the population of Beagle, wage work was often done in conjunction with farming. Mrs. Sweet's husband earned additional money doing orchard work (Sweet Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5) while Mr. Sanderson's father supplemented the family income with carpentry work (Sanderson Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #2).

The biggest worry, as Mr. Frink recalls, was paying the mortgage. The Federal Land Bank would allow people to pay only the interest and the taxes and when times became even worse, just the taxes. His parents were fortunate in that they had to resort to the latter for only a year (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1).

Work was hard and unrelenting and, as Robert Sanderson recalls "...if you didn't work, you didn't eat" (Sanderson Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #2). A typical day would begin at 4:00 am and when he and his siblings would

"... get up in the morning, we had as high as fifty cows to milk, we had the chickens to feed, we had the cattle to feed, we had the pigs to feed, and then we had to eat our own breakfasts and get ready to walk almost three miles to school" (Sanderson Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #2).

But rural life did have one advantage-everyone had plenty to eat. This is a common thread throughout the interviews. "We didn't have...one thin dime to rub against the other yet we ate well" (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5).

Mrs. Beers expresses a similar sentiment in laughingly recalling the year "...when

we didn't hardly make both ends meet and my dad saying, "I'll tell you what, kids, we may be naked by spring, but we'll be fat. We've got lots of food" (Beers Interview: SOHS:549.2-5).

For some, supplementing the larder included hunting deer out of season. Gordon Walker tells of the surreptitious planning and implementation that he, his sister, and parents did in order to avoid the county game warden. But, again, as he says "we were only trying to survive the hectic years after the Stock Market went belly up. Only common sense helped us to survive" (Walker nd: 73).

While the crops grown in Beagle were primarily alfalfa, hay, wheat corn, barley, and oats, pigs, rabbits, and chickens were raised for market (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5). And it appears that the chickens and their eggs were a dependable source of income and barter. Ina Pearl Hilkey's mother had "900 head of chicken" and their eggs would be taken to the Number One groceteria in Medford where they were "...traded for staple goods, ...the things that we didn't raise. We got peanut butter and we'd get salmon and we'd get some flour and some sugar. Most of the flour we ground ourselves. And corn meal. We ground that at home" (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5). Mr. Frink also has fond memories of the family's 100 laying hens because "they bought all of our groceries that we didn't raise on the place. Besides all of our clothes" (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1).

Another aid in the economic hard times was the tight-knit nature and interdependence of the residents. One reason for this is that many families were

related. Of the people cited in this paper, Thelma Beers was the elder sister of Robert Sanderson, separated by 10 years, Ina Pearly Hilkey is related to the Ellis family as well as Gladys Blackford, Lois (Glass) West is a cousin of Gordon Walker as well as the Gordon sisters. They are, in turn, related to the Rodgers. Gordon Walker is also a cousin of the Case family, the people that owned the land purchased by Morris Frink's father.

But even without family ties, the community was close. While true year round, this interdependence intensified in the winter as the community became even more isolated. As Mr. Morris Frink explains, "...there was hardly any transportation in those days, you know. In the wintertime, you couldn't hardly get around except on horses, on account of the bad roads. So we really depended on each other quite a bit." (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). A community group called the "Friendly Neighbors" was an integral part of this cohesion. They kept "...the Sunday school going and [helped] with the school, [provided] for whatever was necessary to help neighbor to neighbor. And we worked as a community, neighbor helped neighbor when it come time to harvest, come time to plant..." (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5).

Beagle Infrastructure

Researching a rural community like Beagle emphasizes the utility of analyzing the data with the lens of landscape. Separating the intrinsically linked built environment from the social landscape would be an almost impossible task. As a farming community, Beagle's built environment was necessarily expansive and widespread, comprised of homes separated by ½ mile or more. Nonetheless, there was a small infrastructure, other than homes, that were focal points of the community, comparable to a self-contained city neighborhood where everyone gathers at the corner grocery store or deli and from which a neighborhood derives a sense of community. In a widespread and sparsely populated rural setting, these gathering places are just as important, if not more so, than their city counterparts and are examined in the following sections.

The Post Office/Store

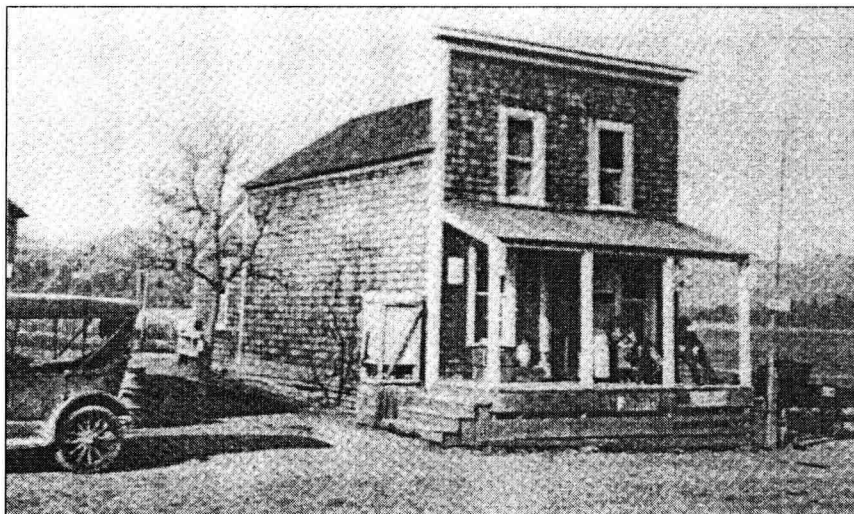


Figure 9. Beagle Post Office and Store. C. S. Sanderson, postmaster, sitting at right. Circa 1920. Photo: Eagle Point Historical Society

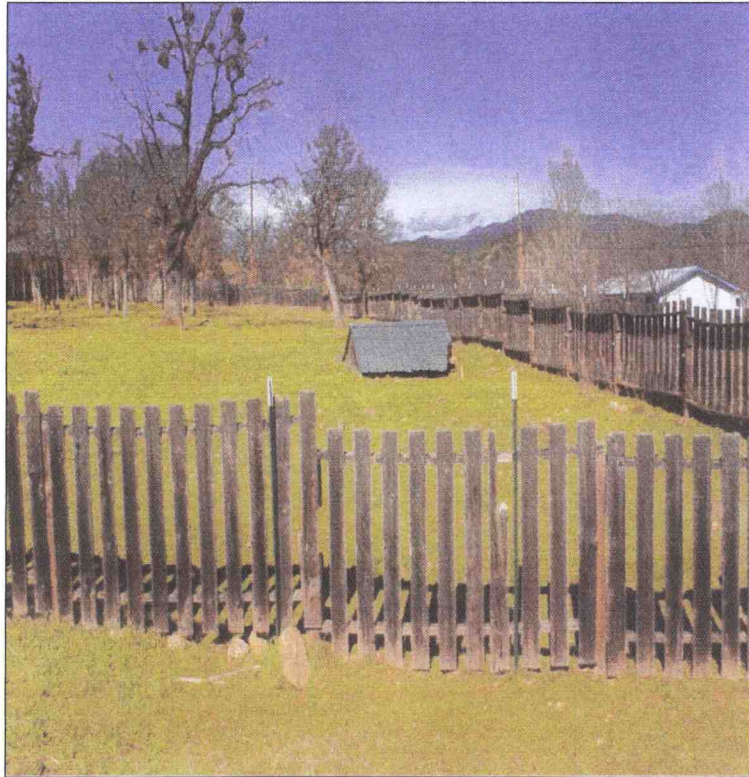


Figure 10. Intersection of Beagle and Antioch roads.
Former location of Beagle Post Office. Author photo.

It was the possession of a post office that first put Beagle on the map (Figures 9, 10). A post office was established in the community on November 11, 1885, and acquired mail service as well as its name from William T. Beagle. It is ironic that the community of Beagle was named for the man with the shortest tenure of all postal appointees, serving only from November 11, 1885 to January 11, 1886.

Mrs. Matilda Foster took up the post on January 11, 1886, followed by Milton A. Houston on July 14, 1887, and Monroe Gordon in 1905. While Monroe Gordon may have officially been the postmaster, his wife Sarah actually performed the postal duties. Two Gordon daughters, Millie Hazel Gordon Glass

and Matty Gordon Rodgers recall that the post office moved from the front bedroom to the front room of the house and that Lee Mitchell "from up in the Meadows" delivered sacks of mail to their house on horseback (Glass & Rodgers Interview; SOHS: 226).

In 1916, Jasper Rodgers became postmaster and established a post office and store in a building he constructed at the current intersection of Beagle and Antioch roads. Gladys Blackford recalled that "Antioch Road goes right through what used to be the little post office there" (Blackford Interview: SOHS:295-1). While the majority of other informants, including a map drawn by former resident Frank Luft, place the site at the northwest corner of the intersection, Mrs. Blackford may be correct as well. The roads have been widened and paved since the war.

The original structure burned sometime in the late 1920s and a new one built at the same location. During its history, the office had twelve different postmasters, closing only once in April of 1925 when Ella Smith failed to qualify as postmaster. Mail for Beagle was then temporarily routed through the Sams Valley post office. Service resumed, however, in May of 1926 and continued at Beagle until permanently closing in April of 1941 (Rogue Valley Genealogical Society 2000:4) (Figure 11).

The last postmaster, Louis Swanson, was appointed August 6, 1930 and both he and his sister Annie are listed on the 1930 census. Former residents connected with this project remember them only as "Brother" and "Sister" Swanson. He



Figure 11. Last Day issue postcard, Beagle, Oregon Post Office. Louis Swanson, Postmaster. Author's collection.

was 55 years old and listed his occupation as “farmer” and she, 57, did not list one.

Whether his postal responsibilities were in addition to farming, or begun after the census was taken is hard to determine as the census taker neglected to date the population schedule. It is possible that they rented the business and property as the 1932 Metsker map shows Herman Turrill as owner of the 2.5-acre tract on which the store was located.

The store they operated was small and, according to the informants, sparsely stocked. “Sister” Swanson supplemented their income by making and selling pine needle baskets of all shapes and sizes. Ida Pearl Hilkey recalls going to the store with her 4H group and they would “...sit and watch her and she’d tell us and show us and teach” (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #10). The Swansons relocated to Gold Hill at the time of removal (Sweet Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5).

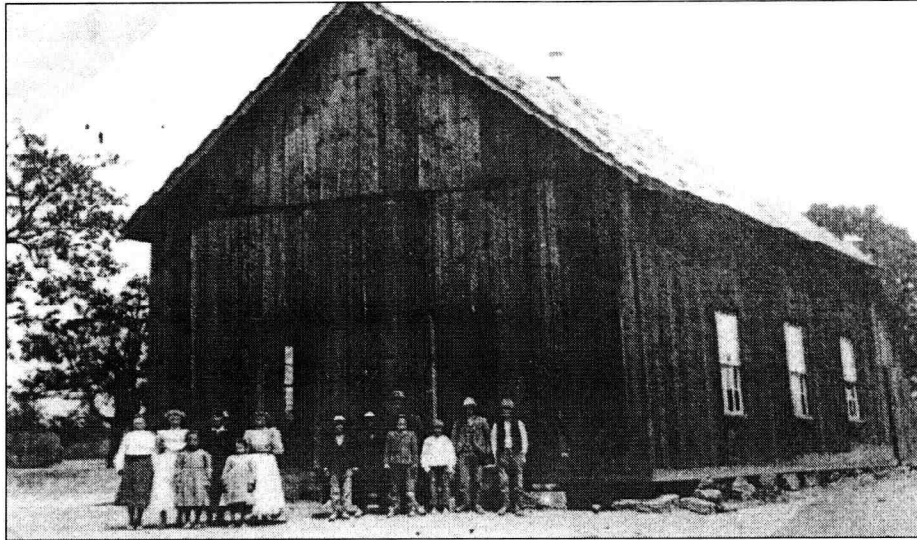


Figure 12. Antioch School, c. 1884-1922. Photo: Eagle Point Historical Society.

The Antioch Schools

In 1917, E. R Peterson, the Rural School Supervisor for Jackson County, reported that the public school in Beagle was

"...one of the poorest in Jackson County; lighting very bad; floor worn out; meager equipment. Ground naturally very attractive, with many beautiful oak trees; not fenced, hogs run at large around and under the building. Water from pump not protected from the hogs. New Building is an urgent necessity. The people of the community do not seem to realize the necessity of better school conditions" (Jackson Education Service 1983:11).

Fred Inlow, a former student recalled that "it was an old wooden schoolhouse" and that it had "...a pretty high ceiling. That old schoolhouse was straight old unplanned boards, batting on it ...to plug up the cracks" (Inlow Interview: SOHS: 207-41-42). The land for the school (and cemetery) had been deeded to the community in 1880 by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Donegan. While this last is known to be correct, the origins of the Antioch School District are a little bit murkier.

Originally part of the larger Jacksonville District #1 created circa 1860, population growth within the area resulted in a split of the school district into the Table Rock District #44 and the Antioch District #18. The school that Mr. Inlow was familiar with was built in about 1884 after the passage of a tax levy of 15 mill (1/10 of a cent) in 1883 (Medford Mail Tribune May 31, 1959:10; Nesheim 1976:18). While this building would serve the community's needs for almost forty years, Mr. Peterson's advice was taken in 1922 and a new Antioch school was built.

The new school was a "one room" schoolhouse (Figure 13). Mr. Frink, Mr. Sweet, and Mrs. Hilkey all remember that, in addition to the main room, the school had a cloakroom, a small library, an interior wood shed, and a large wood stove in the corner (Figure 14). Mr. Frink recalls that the student's desks ran the length of the building, with a grade in each row, beginning with the eighth graders seated next to the windows.

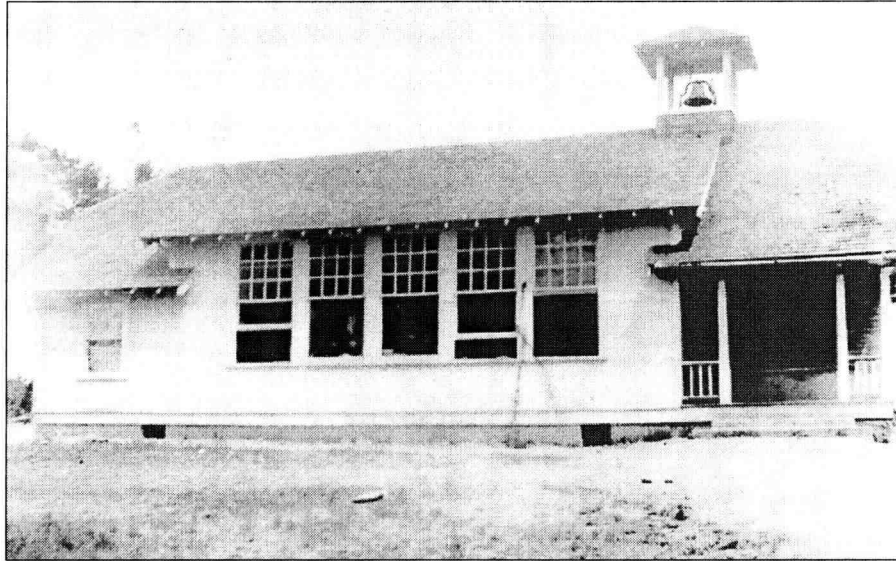


Figure 13. New Antioch School, circa 1930. Photo courtesy Mr. Thomas Walker.

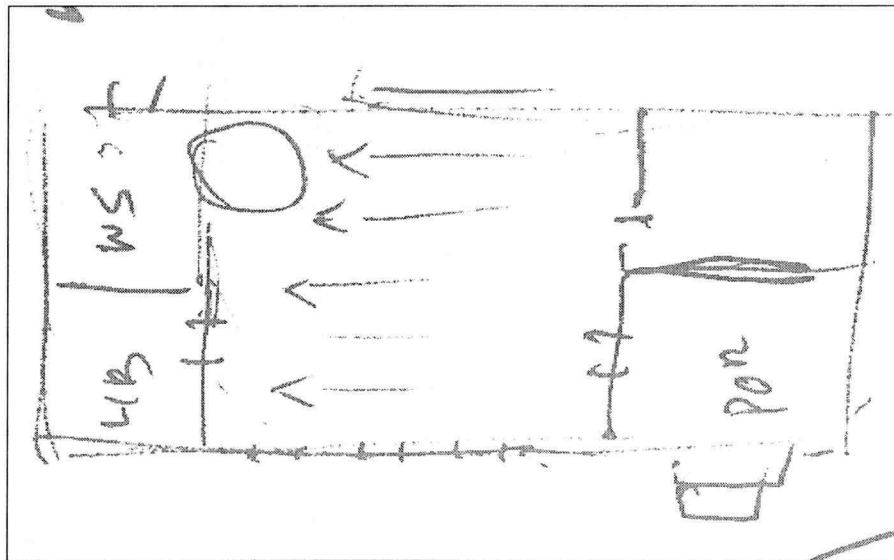


Figure 14. Interior of schoolhouse drawn by Mr. Phillip Sweet, a student at the time of removal in 1942. "WS" indicates location of interior wood shed and the circle adjacent to this represents the wood stove. Arrows indicate direction of rows, "LIB" is the library, and "POR" is the porch. Next to the porch, inside, was the cloakroom. Orientation is the same as the photo above. Author's collection.

On the school grounds, the teacher and student had the use of a small horse barn. This structure stood southeast of the school in what is today the “new” portion of the Antioch cemetery. The field in which it sat was also used as the playground (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 18, 2003; Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). The girl’s privy sat back from the northeast corner of the school and the boy’s from the southeast corner. And Mr. Frink and Mr. Sweet identified the extant concrete pad adjacent to the north end of the school as the capped well.

Only grades one through eight were taught at the Antioch school and, typical of rural schools, the student body was small. Mr. Frink recalls going to school with between 20 and 30 fellow students. When he graduated, however, in about 1933, classes had grown large enough to merit the hiring of an additional teacher (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). This growth is borne out by 1930 census data that indicates 50 children would have been between the ages of 6 and 13 in 1933. And the December 6th, 1933 Beagle column in the Medford Mail Tribune describes the Thanksgiving program “prepared by the teachers, Miss Anderson [who taught the upper grades] and Miss Brewold.”

Another teacher, Violet Pomeroy, appears to have made a very favorable impression (Figure 15). Even with the passage of over seventy years, both Ida Pearl Hilkey and Robert Sanderson recall her with fondness.

Extracurricular activity at the school included the Beagle Stickies, the softball team that regularly competed with teams from Sams Valley and Eagle Point

schools, track meets in which Antioch students ran their best against students from the Long Mountain and Table Rock school (Medford Mail Tribune May 2, 1932), Boy Scout Troop #14 (Medford Mail Tribune February 11, 1932), and an active P.T.A (Medford Mail Tribune, Beagle Column, March 14, 1932).

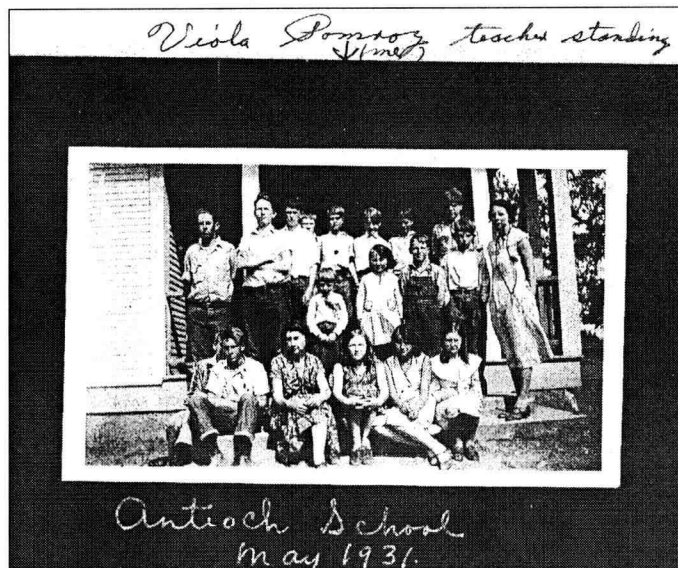


Figure 15. Viola Pomeroy (standing at right) and class. Antioch school, 1931. Photo courtesy Mr. Ernest Sanderson.

By 1942, enrollment had again decreased. Mr. Phillip Sweet, nine years old at the time of removal, recalls beginning his school days with about 15 fellow students. This number had dwindled to nine when the school closed (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 18, 2003).

Those students who continued onto high school traveled to Sams Valley, a farming community about three miles southwest of Beagle. Unfortunately, not all families could afford to send their children to high school. Robert Sanderson recalls: "I was all prepared to go to high school and you had to buy your own books. And to buy my books, to start to high school was \$10.00. And we did not

have \$10.00. So I didn't go to high school" (Sanderson Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #2). On the other hand, not all students wanted to continue on to high school. Gordon Walker and his cousin Don Case were thrilled when compulsory schooling was finished. They never "...had any plans to attend high school because [they] thought it was a waste of time" (Walker nd:70).

The School As Community Center

The oral interviews have shown that the school was much more than just a place of learning. It was the ipso facto community center of Beagle, an integral part of the social landscape of Beagle that also functioned as a polling place, public library, and a place of worship (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1).

Various women in the community, including Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Segmiller (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #10) taught an interdenominational Sunday school services at the school every Sunday. On the occasion of the arrival of Del Mallard, one of handful of circuit riding preachers to pass through Beagle, church turned into an all day affair: Sunday school in the morning, a potluck at noon, and a sermon in the afternoon (ibid).

The school was also the meeting place of the Antioch Sewing Club (Figure 16) and a very active 4H club. The latter, in addition to regular club activities, held pie socials at the school. The proceeds from these were used to send a Beagle delegate to 4H summer school in Corvallis (Medford Mail Tribune, Beagle column, May 7, 1940). Additionally, Mrs. Thelma (Sanderson) Beers was sent, along with six other Jackson County 4H club leaders, to the annual leaders

conference at Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) (Medford Mail Tribune, January 26, 1939).



Figure 16. Antioch Sewing Club, 1925.
Photo courtesy Mrs. Thelma Beers.

Antioch Cemetery

The Antioch Cemetery was established in 1867 and is located on land south of the Antioch school, a portion of the same tract deeded by the Donegans. The cemetery is still in use today and has expanded north into the area where the Antioch school's horse barn and playground once were.

The cemetery is the only portion of Beagle's original infrastructure to survive the construction of Camp White intact. The army did want to move the graves but the community, as Mrs. Sweet recalls "put their foot down" (Sweet Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5) and this intense negative reaction on the part of the

community forced the military to reconsider. In addition, Mr. Frink believes that as the property was deeded to Beagle in perpetuity, the army was unable to acquire it legally. Be that as it may, the graves were not moved. Instead, gravestones were laid down and the entire cemetery buried in six to eight feet of dirt dug from property directly across the road.

Dance Hall

One great benefit of oral interviews are the nuggets of information about places that exist only in memory. The Beagle dance hall was one such nugget (Figure 17). Operating only on Saturday nights, Mr. Frink recalled the Beagle dance hall as a hopping place. Attracting folks from the surrounding communities as well, the night's activities included musicians with guitars and fiddles, refreshments, and, according to Mr. Frink, a lot of flirting (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1).

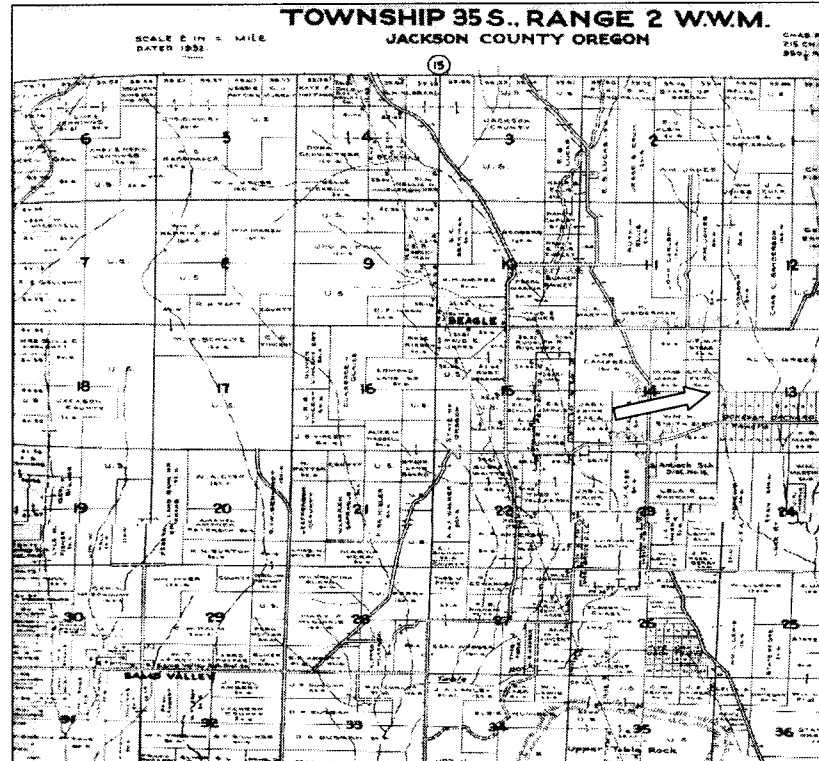


Figure 17. 1932 Metsker map with approximate dance hall location (arrow). Mr. Frink also recalls occasional rodeos taking place directly east of the dance hall.

Rural Electrification and Beagle

The nascent electric technology first appeared in the Rogue Valley in Ashland in 1889. Though the demonstration on the Ashland Plaza only involved a “1200 candle power arc light” (Bullis 1966:10), electrical grid nonetheless continued to grow. While Medford acquired electric service in 1894 (ibid:10), service to Beagle was not installed until 1941. The warranty deed signed by Blanche Sweet of Beagle on June 17, 1942, shows the conveyance of a right of way to California Oregon Power Company (Copco) on June 26, 1941. This date also corresponds to Ina Pearl (Lucas) Hickey’s memory of this event:

“...we got electricity about a year, a year and half prior to the time that the war broke out and the Camp White bought this land out here. And the only way we got electricity that time was, we had to, as a community, we had to cut the poles according to Pacific Power’s, Copco’s, specifications. And they treated ‘em and then they came and dug the hole and set the poles and strung the wire. Each family had to guarantee to at least have a cook stove. A range. In order to get the power...the people furnished the poles. And Copco... they came and set the poles and strung the wire. They laid out, you know, the design, where it was going to go. But that’s the only way we got electricity” (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #10).

It is not known if each family complied with Copco’s stipulation concerning the electric range. There was one family in Beagle, however, who enjoyed the benefits of electricity prior to community-wide electrification. Ruth Ellis, a cousin of Mrs. Hilkey’s, accepted the invitation of her Beagle relatives to settle there. Her husband, Perry Ellis, had been unable to find work as an electrician in a Los Angeles hit hard by the Depression. In Beagle, however, he installed a Delco system with batteries and generated enough power for his wife to use an electric washing machine. In addition, the family, along with Mrs. Hilkey, enjoyed *Amos and Andy* and *Fibber McGee and Molly* radio broadcasts on Saturday night (Hilkey Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #10).

The War Years

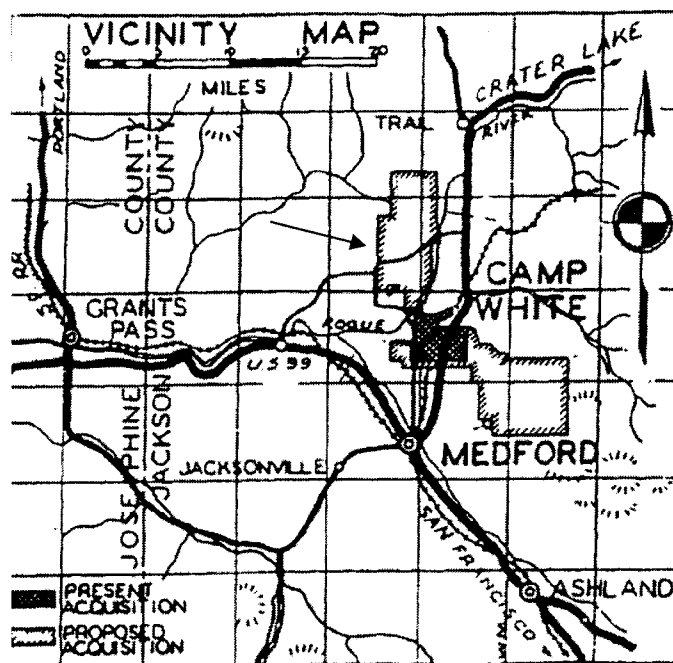


Figure 18. Map of Camp White and Vicinity. From the 1942 Army Corps of Engineer's Completion report. In Kramer, 1992. Arrow points to Artillery Impact Area (Beagle).

United States Military Buildup Between 1920 and 1942

The destruction in 1942 of Beagle, Oregon, was a visible demonstration of the changed nature of the United States military. The inadequate planning and preparation during World War I had led to a revamping of, and evolution towards, an increasingly industrialized military. The National Defense Act of 1920 "represented a first step toward recognizing that modern warfare, with its demands for huge mechanized ground forces armed with sophisticated weapons...demanded that the entire national economy be harnessed" (Schubert 2003:4). By the end of the decade, industrial mobilization planning "...concerned

all activities necessary to ensure the success...of wartime procurement” (Schubert 2003:6).

Over the next ten years, these "protective mobilization plans" were revised and the military's organization became increasingly centralized. The government encouraged industrial expansion and the construction of troop facilities because “mobilization severely strained extant facilities for housing, training, and supplying the troops (Schubert 2003: 14).

The majority of Americans remained confirmed isolationists during this period. But with Hitler’s invasion of Czechoslovakia, his alliance with Mussolini, and the devastating blitzkrieg of London beginning in September of 1940, many in the government came to believe, like Under Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson, that “the United States is in peril from the aggressive designs of the Axis Powers” (Hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate on S. 1579, June 18, 1941: 5).

Patterson, the “Army’s chief mobilization and procurement planner ...concentrated on creating the productive facilities that were essential to increasing output,” (Schubert 2003:13). The Lend-Lease Act, an attempt to aid England while not violating official United States’ neutrality, passed on March 11, 1941 and helped stimulate production as well as the push for military expansion. In a letter dated June 2, 1941 to Robert R. Reynolds, then Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the United Senate, Patterson encouraged the introduction of “A Bill to Authorize the President of the United States to

Requisition Certain Property for the Use of or Disposition by the United States” (S1579). In his letter to the Senate, Patterson recounted numerous statutes that had been passed into law between 1916 and 1940 that “...authorize the expropriation of various types of personal property under certain conditions” (Hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate on S. 1579, June 18, 1941:2). The property referred to was business related; ships and shipyards, railroads, interurban railroads, etc. that would be used “for the transfer and transportation of employees of shipyards or plants engaged in the construction of ships or equipment therefore for the United States” (ibid:3).

The bill, however, was “considerably modified by Congress before being finally enacted” (Riddick 1942:299). Nonetheless,

the substitute bill [gave] the President power to requisition, upon payment of fair and just compensation, military or naval equipment, supplies and munitions needed for national defense...when the government has immediate need for such property of for the defense of the United States...” (77th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Report #565:2, in Riddick 1942: 299).

The final hearings on S. 1579 were conducted on July 31, 1941. By the war’s end, the War Department had purchased 174,544 acres in Oregon and 5,728,876 nationwide for military use (Lee 1947: 5 and Table 19) (Figure 19).

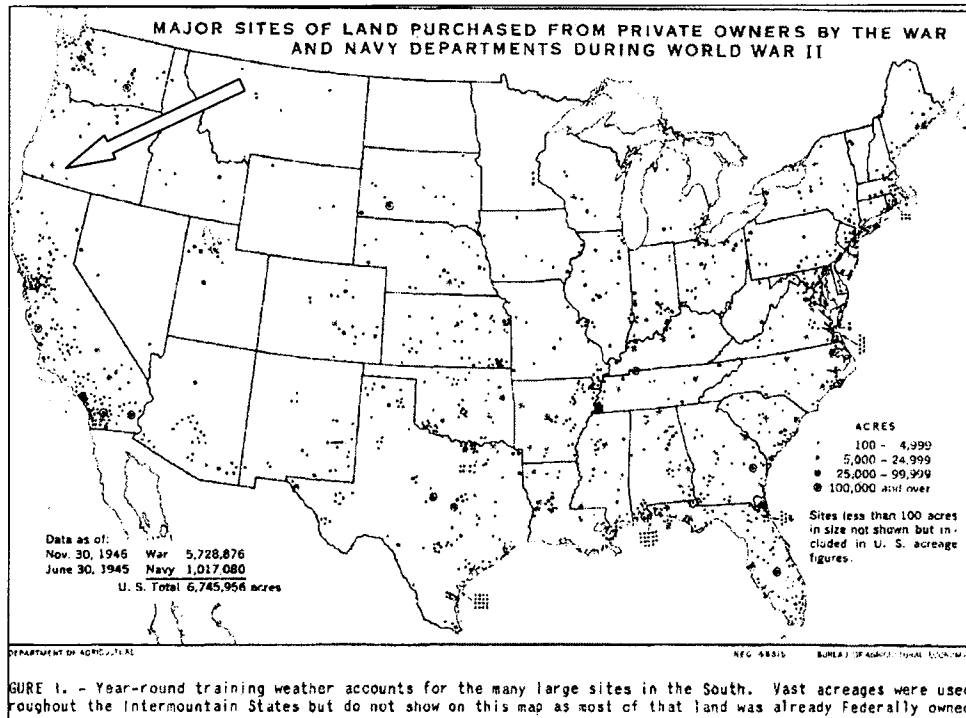


Figure 19. 1947 map detailing land acquired by the military before and during World War II. Arrow points to location of Camp White. In *Acquisition and Use of Land For Military and War Production Purposes*.



Figure 20. Panoramic view of Camp White administration/barracks area. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society, Camp White file. “Camp White” file #5718.

Medford and the Coming of Camp White

Medford, Oregon, with a population of approximately 12,500 in 1942 (Polks Directory 1939:7), was a small, relatively isolated rural town in the southwest corner of Oregon. Highway 99 was the main north-south road and the route by which the region's timber and orchard products were shipped. Still feeling the economic effects of the Great Depression, Medford was excited when rumors began to fly about the possible construction of a military base in the area. Hopeful news columns began to pepper the pages of the Medford News and Medford Mail Tribune.

As early as May 1941, General Brehon Sommerwell, head of the Quartermaster's construction division and Captain Theron W. Bean, constructing quartermaster temporarily assigned to the Medford Armory, were inspecting “...the most important areas of the proposed cantonment” (Medford Mail Tribune: May 26, 1941). “Stimulated principally by the proposed erection of an

army cantonment (camp) in the Antelope-Beagle district” (Medford Mail Tribune: June 4, 1941), the nearby community of Central Point experienced a “sharply accelerated... sale of both city and privately owned real estate” (Medford Mail Tribune: June 2, 1941). Similar booms occurred throughout the Rogue Valley as the area geared up for the influx of thousands.

These hopes were suspended, however, when on December 5, 1941, the Medford News announced the return of Captain Theron W. Bean and most of his staff to San Francisco. But with the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the December 26 issue of the Medford News reported the return of Captain Bean and the reopening of his offices. The Quartermaster would no longer be in charge of the project, however, as “all construction work on the proposed cantonment ha[d] been transferred to the army engineers” (Medford News: December 26, 1941). The front page rumor mill started again regarding the base and the conflicting reports from military sources led one reporter at the Medford News to lament:

"So don't think that "no news" about the army camp indicates that there will be none. The old grapevine news service is doing its best to keep up with matters, but is having tough going...." (Medford News: December 26, 1941).

It was not until January 6, 1942 that the announcement came from Washington, D. C. “that the building of the camp at Medford had been approved” (Medford News: January 9, 1942). Even so, without definitive awarding of building contracts, various conjectures concerning the nature of the impending military invasion continued to fly about Medford:

“Stories were around that the contracts had been awarded Tuesday, that the camp would be built with CCC labor, that Medford would be an induction center, and that buildings were already going up near Agate. There was another one, that Medford would be declared a combat zone instead of a defense area, which had many worried, but no one seemed to know the difference between the two” (Medford News: January 9, 1942).

Finally, after months of speculation, Marshall Bessonette and his Medford construction firm broke ground for the first building, an administration office, on January 17, 1942 (Kramer 1992:14). At its height, Camp White was to be home to approximately 40,000 personnel, occupy 43,000 acres of land, and qualify as the second largest city in Oregon (Kramer 1992) (Figure 21).

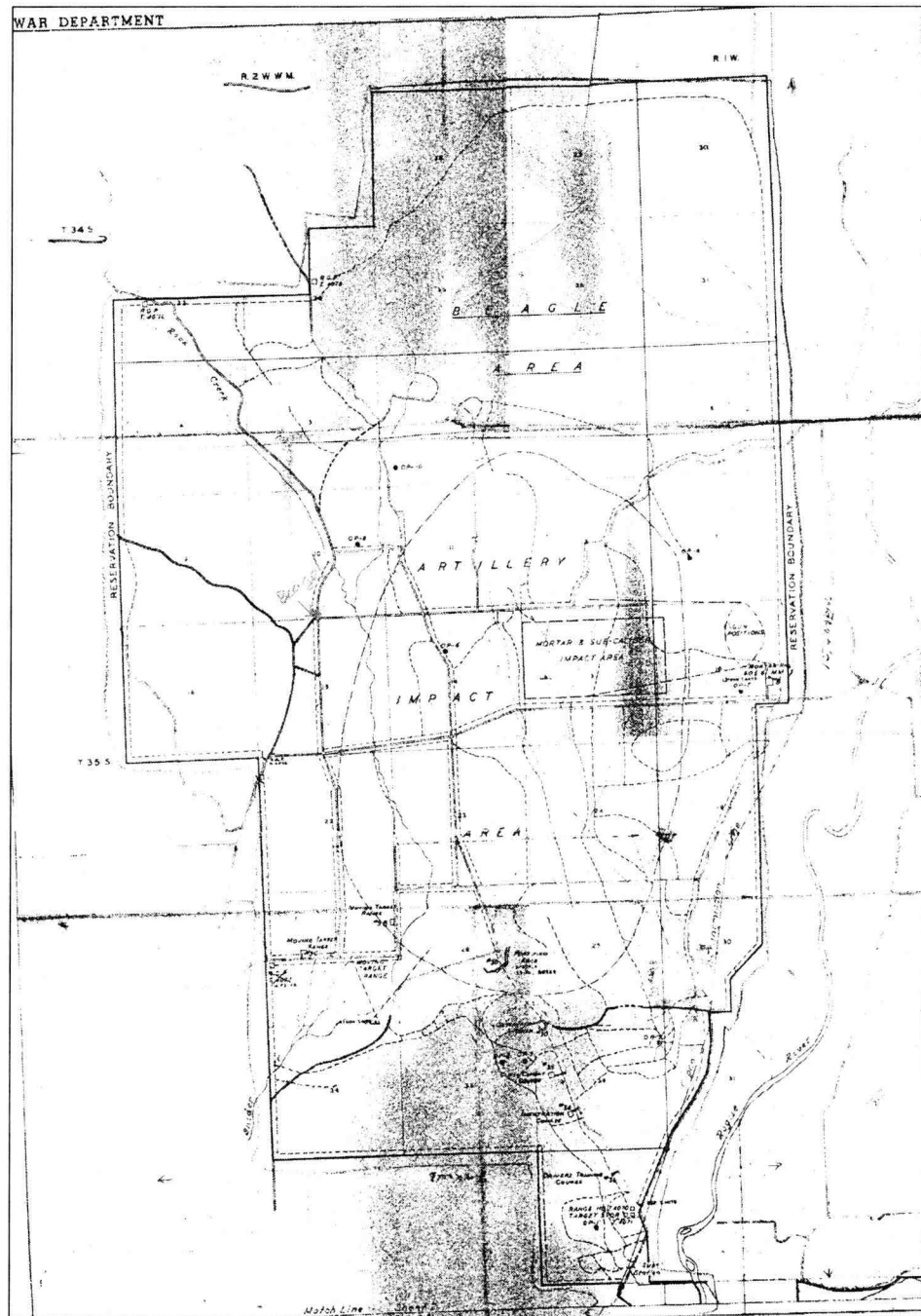


Figure 21. 1943 War Department map of the Beagle Area. Map shows primary Artillery Impact Area. Source: Oregon State Archives.

While the residents of Beagle awaited to learn the fate of their community, the city of Medford geared up for the arrival of approximately 40,000 military personnel (Kramer 1992:1). In June of 1941, Medford Mayor H. S. Deuel, County Judge J. B. Coleman, and others had visited California to study "...utilities and sanitation facilities, merchandising, housing, schooling, and religious needs and social problems created in nearby communities..." by the construction of Fort Ord and Camp Roberts (Medford Mail Tribune: June 4, 1941). In February of 1942, the Medford Water Commission decided that Medford's water, for the first time, would have to be metered "...as a means of conserving enough water to supply the proposed army cantonment here, plus the increased population within the city..." (Medford News: February 6, 1942). That same day, the News reported that Medford Trailer Camps had incorporated and would "...engage principally in installing and operating a trailer camp designed primarily for construction workers on the army cantonment" (Medford News: February 6, 1942). One-way traffic was to be initiated in March on Crater Lake highway to facilitate the construction process (Medford News: February 27, 1942). Also in March, Frank J. Van Dyke, executive secretary of the cantonment civilian coordinating board, "issued a plea for the cooperation of all Jackson county residents who have a room or other lodging accommodations" to make it known to Jackson County municipal authorities (Medford Mail Tribune: March 27, 1942).

Despite all this, businesses in Medford happily anticipated the camp's arrival;

the Medford News, beginning in March of 1942, regularly dedicated a full page with the banner "These Firms Welcome Camp White to Medford" (Figure 22) in which local companies extolled the virtues of their businesses.

Valley Firms Welcome Camp White

SOUTH OREGON SALES IS THE ONLY FIRM OPERATIVE IN THIS SECTION

Medford has a reputation all through this section and throughout the entire Oregon for a good deal toward the state, as well as throughout the entire Oregon, of being one of the best places to do business. This reputation is based on the fact that the management of the firm is one of the best in the state. The firm has a long history of successful operation and is one of the leading firms in the section. The firm is one of the few firms in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The firm is one of the few firms in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The firm is one of the few firms in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

VICTORY CAFE

Finds Approval With Camp White Personnel

The Victory Cafe has been found to be one of the best places to eat in Medford. The cafe has a complete line of goods and services. The cafe is one of the few cafes in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The cafe is one of the few cafes in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The cafe is one of the few cafes in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

HOTEL MEDFORD

Offers Complete Service

A modern hotel has been built in Medford. The hotel has a complete line of goods and services. The hotel is one of the few hotels in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The hotel is one of the few hotels in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The hotel is one of the few hotels in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

MEDFORD MEAT COMPANY PRODUCES "TASTY BRAND" OF HAMB AND SAUSAGE

The Medford Meat Company has produced a new line of goods and services. The company is one of the few companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The company is one of the few companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The company is one of the few companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

FIRST STATE DANA OF SAULE POINT

The First State Dana of Saule Point is one of the few danas in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The dana is one of the few danas in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The dana is one of the few danas in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

A BREWING COMPANY'S

The Brewing Company is one of the few brewing companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The company is one of the few brewing companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The company is one of the few brewing companies in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

Medford Bargain House

The Medford Bargain House is one of the few bargain houses in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The house is one of the few bargain houses in the section that has a complete line of goods and services. The house is one of the few bargain houses in the section that has a complete line of goods and services.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the real property of the estate of [Name] deceased, will be sold at public auction on [Date] at [Location].

Figure 22. "Valley Firms Welcome Camp White." Medford Mail Tribune, August 28, 1942.

Destruction of Community

When it was finally decided that the “Agate Desert” would be the new home of Camp White, the machinery for displacing the residents of the affected areas was already in place. Like the industrial and business sector, the legal acquisition of privately owned land was authorized by legislative acts: the General Condemnation Statute passed on August 1, 1888, the Declaration of Taking Act passed on February 26, 1931, and the Second War Powers Act of March 27, 1942. The latter bolstered the authority of the earlier acts, specifying

“that the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, or any other officer, board, commission or Governmental corporation authorized by the President may acquire by purchase, donation or other means of transfer, or may cause proceedings to be instituted in any court having jurisdiction of such proceedings, to acquire by condemnation any real property...”
(Lee 1947:24).

The details of the acts’ implementation is documented by the War Records Project of the United States Department of Agriculture. Initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt, the objective of this government-wide project was “to collect, organize, and preserve the basic records of wartime administration and to prepare histories of the major war programs” (Lee 1947:i). In *Acquisition and Use of Land for Military and War Production Purposes: World War II*, published in 1947, the means and methods of acquiring private land for war purposes is detailed.

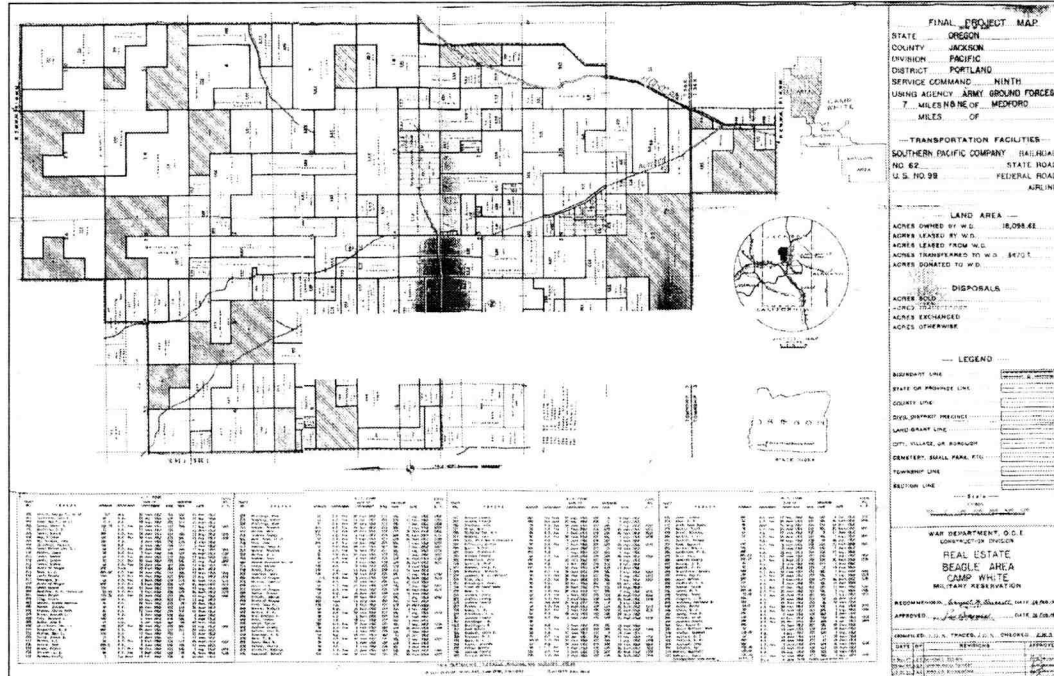


Figure 23. War Department map. Real Estate Beagle Area Camp White Military Reservation, February 24, 1944. Original dated January 15, 1942. Source: Oregon State Archives.

Louis Chesnut, the Federal Land Bank appraiser responsible for the valuation of private property for both the Hanford reservation and the Camp White cantonment, wrote in *The Pacific Northwesterner* that the “valuations were to be based on fair market value” (Chesnut 1986:18). Chesnut defined this value as “...the amount a willing, but not anxious seller would accept in cash or its equivalent for given property from an informed and willing buyer” (ibid). The appraiser made an estimate “based upon a study of all factors—physical, economic, and social—that influence values” (Lee 1947:27). And in order to determine this value, Chesnut “studied records of recent sales in the region for comparable pieces of property” (Chesnut 1986:18).

Chesnut states that “nationally as well as in this district, five percent of the property owners elected to go to court to contest the amount offered” (ibid) And those owners, who chose to go through condemnation proceedings had to wait for payment until the sum in question was settled in court. Mr. Frink recalls that his family took the government’s offer because “they got the money now” and that those who chose a court settlement had to wait two and three years for their payment. Further, condemnation proceedings meant hiring a lawyer and, as Mr. Sweet recalls, most people in Beagle simply did not have the money to do this (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 18, 2003).

The majority of Beagle residents deeded their property to the United States of America with a warranty deed. While the government purported to pay fair market value for land, it is clear that not all people felt they had received equitable compensation. Gordon Jesse Walker recalls that in 1935, his parents had finally saved enough money to buy 80 acres and the “...total price was five hundred dollars. The deal was one hundred dollars down, and payments were five dollars a month until paid for, with no interest. We built a house on a rise about a hundred feet from a fast flowing spring” (Walker nd:16). The Walkers would have just finished paying the balance due on their land when forced to vacate. In an interview with Joseph Follansbee for the *Table Rock Sentinel*, Gordon Walker recalls that his parents were paid four hundred dollars for their land in 1942 or five dollars an acre. “Dad wasn’t one to fight a battle. He just wanted to be on his way” (Follansbee 1989:7).

This is an example of how memory can reflect a sentiment instead of a fact. Perhaps Walker misunderstood his father when told of the sale price. Or perhaps Walker's understanding of the payment is indicative of his response to a traumatic event. In any case, Jessie and Ollie Walker were paid ten dollars an acre or \$800 dollars for their 80 acres in 1942 (Warranty Deed, Book 236:500).

The inequity of payment, however, is evident in other warranty deeds. Monroe Gordon, Sadie Frink, and J. M. Rodgers all sold 160 acres to the government. All were longtime residents of Beagle, with established residences. Gordon Walker remembers his grandfather Gordon's house as "...a big two-story house with lots of rooms [and] a porch...across the front of the house with another structure on top called a veranda" (Walker nd.: 10) (Figure 24). There was also a large barn as well as several outbuildings on the Gordon property. The 1939 assessment shows a value of \$2540 on 84 acres of tillable land, \$380 on 76 acres of non-tillable land, and records \$400 for the value of improvements for a total value of taxable property of \$3320 (1939 Jackson County Oregon Assessment Roll, line 22 and 29, page 124). He was paid approximately twenty-four dollars an acre (Warranty Deed, Book 236: 514) or \$3846 in 1942.

Sadie Frink, Morris Frink's mother, also held 160 acres with a home and outbuildings and tillable and non-tillable acreage comparable to Monroe Gordon's. The 1939 roll shows a value of \$2820 on 80 acres of tillable land,

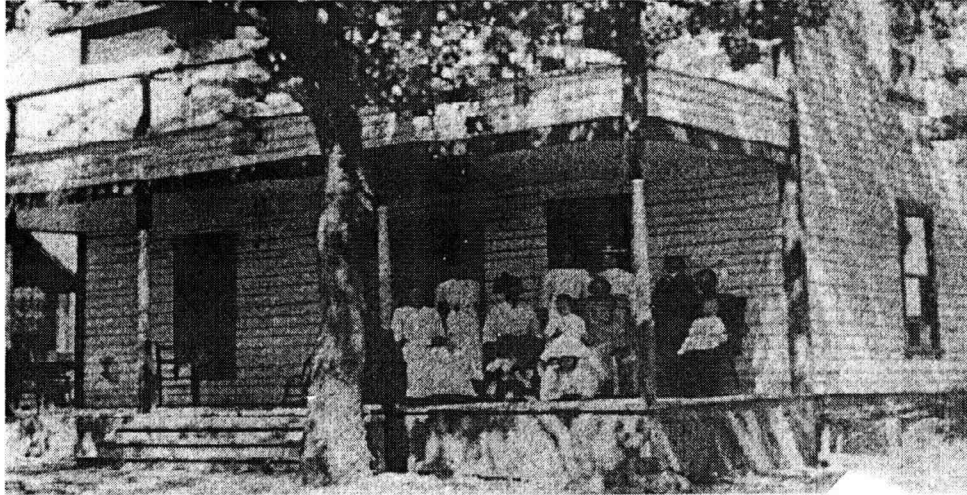


Figure 24. Gordon home, circa 1905. Photo: Eagle Point Historical Society.

\$670 on 78.2 acres of non-tillable aces, and \$350 as the value of improvements for a total of \$3840 (1939 Jackson County Oregon Assessment Roll, line 13, page 125 and line 5, page 128). In 1942, Mrs. Frink was paid \$6720, approximately forty-two dollars an acre, (Warranty Deed, Book 236: 617), and three thousand more than both the 1939 assessment and the amount paid to Gordon for comparable property.

Finally, J. M Rodgers was assessed a value of \$400 on 25 acres of tillable land, \$270 for 135 acres of non-tillable land and a value of \$100 on improvements for a total value of taxable property of \$770 (1939 Jackson County Oregon Assessment Roll, line 2, page 124). He was paid slightly more than four dollars an acre (Warranty Deed, Book 237: 38) or \$640 in 1942. I checked the warranty deed several times for this last transaction but the figure is correct. Further compare this to the fifty-seven dollars an acre or \$2280 (Warranty Deed, Book 237: 2) paid to Blanche Sweet, Mrs. Charlotte Sweet's mother-in-law and Mr. Phillip Sweet's

grandmother, for 40 acres with a taxable value of \$1200 in 1939 (1939 Jackson County Oregon Assessment Roll, line 7, page 124).

I do not know the reason for the drastically different prices. Perhaps the type and number of structures, their condition, and amount of arable land were determining factors. But these examples do illuminate one reason for the community's angry response. And they appear to be typical of a nationwide reaction. As noted in *Acquisition*, "Most of the recorded complaints on the part of owners... have been either in regard to the general level of prices paid or the seemingly unjust differences paid for similar properties" (Lee 1947: 26). And "the general level of prices," as Mr. Frink recalls, had begun to increase prior to this time and the government neglected to take this into account during the valuation process (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1).

Those who chose to and, more importantly, could afford to hire a lawyer, initiated the condemnation proceedings described by Mr. Chestnut. A small sampling of these proceedings also shows the government's tendency to undervalue. In October of 1943, federal court trial juries awarded George Gilman \$599, \$499 dollars more than the original government offer of \$100, M. L. Carmean \$3,643, \$2,443 over the original \$1200 offer, and Ralph Cowgill \$695 more than was first offered (Medford Mail Tribune: October 7 & 8, 1943).

Notification of removal was accomplished both by letter and in person (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). I have been unable to locate a copy of the letter and am not sure if the issuing entity was the Federal Land Bank, the United States

military, or a county agent (See Lee 1947:38). However the notification was made, it came as a shock to the residents of Beagle. “I think we were just numb over the whole thing. We couldn’t really envision that we didn’t have our homes anymore” (Sweet Interview: SVCAC/BHIG: #5). While none of those interviewed mentioned the lead-time they were given, it may have been relatively short. Mrs. Sweet recalls that neighbors didn’t really have a chance to discuss the removal because, though stunned, they were necessarily busy gathering their possessions together as quickly as possible. In Thomas (2006), William Powell recalls “they [Camp Hood, Texas] just come there and told you how much they was going to give for your land and give you two or three weeks to get out and took a bulldozer and pushed your house down” (Thomas 2006:1). If this recollection is typical of a nationwide military timeline, it is not surprising that the residents of Beagle were rushed.

They also bulldozed the houses at Beagle. Mrs. Thelma Beers, Mrs. Sweet, and Mr. Frink all remember this (Beers Interview: SOHS 549.2-1; Sweet Interview: SOHS 549.22-2; Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). In addition to the buildings, the military tore down fences and filled wells up with rocks (ibid). The Sweets left Beagle on July 4, 1942 (Sweet Interview: SVCAC/BHIG:#5).

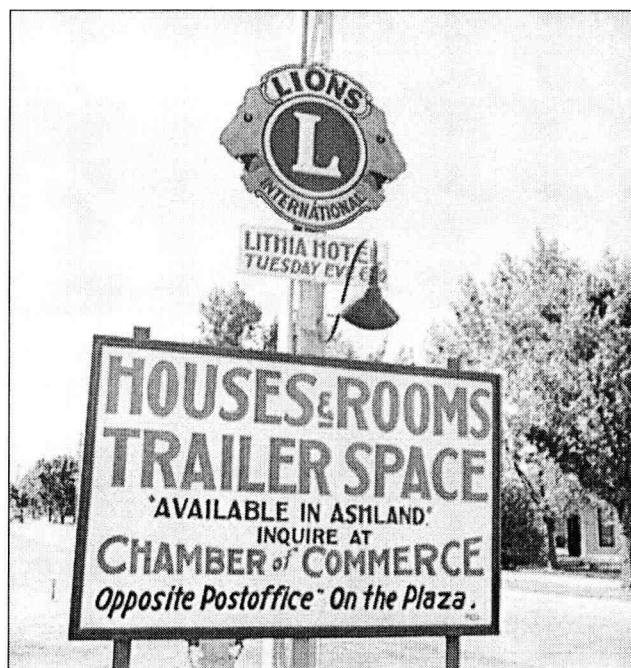


Figure 25. July 1942. Sign in Ashland, Oregon approximately 20 miles from Beagle. Photo: The Library of Congress American Memory Project.

The dispossessed residents of Beagle entered an increasingly tightening housing market (Figure 25). According to *Acquisition*, the Farm Security Administration began issuing “grants to low-income farm families to help defray moving costs and to provide temporary sustenance” (Lee 1947:47) that did not exceed \$100 per family. Most of these grants, however, were made in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina (ibid.). None of those interviewed for this project mentioned receiving relocation assistance and appear to have made their own arrangements.

The Sweets rented a home in Phoenix, Oregon which burned to the ground about three weeks later. They were only able to save “...the old table, the old sewing machine...the old clock, and grandma’s trunk. That was what survived”

(Sweet Interview: SOHS.22-5). The Sweets later moved two miles outside of Medford on the Jacksonville Highway and in August of 1944 were again burned out. The house next door, occupied by Robert Sanderson's sister-in-law, burned at the same time. Again, the Sweet's were "...able to salvage only a few personal articles" (Medford Mail Tribune: August 1944).

Ida Pearl Hilkey and her father moved to Medford while her cousins, the Ellises moved to Willow Springs. Mr. Frink and his wife were able to find housing in Central Point.

Post-War Beagle

History

Though the war ended August 13, 1945, Camp White had already experienced a decrease in the numbers of troops training there. By the fall of 1943, the military, though still operating in the Agate Desert, was doing so on a vastly reduced scale. By the middle of 1944, the Beagle and Antelope training areas were rarely used and in May, “the Army announced that a leasing agreement had been worked out with cattle men in Sams Valley and Antelope Creek to provide for grazing on the ranges...”(Kramer 1992:91).

In September 1945, a different kind of battle began over the fate of Camp White. Medford civic leaders and businessmen entered into a contest of wills with the Veterans Administration and the Governor of Oregon. The former group wanted to transform the existing hospital at Camp White into a Veterans Administration Domiciliary and the latter to build new facilities in Klamath Falls, Oregon (See Kramer 1992). Ultimately, local forces triumphed and the facility was dedicated on February 20, 1949 (Kramer 1992:98).

At the same time the government was debating the future of the hospital buildings at Camp White, it was also deciding the future of the Beagle Area. It was not until February 27, 1948 that property in the Beagle area was offered for sale by the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation (FFMC). Former owners or their tenants at time of acquisition were allowed 90 days to file a statement of interest

with the FFMC project office located at building T-225 in Camp White (Medford Mail Tribune: February 27, 1948).

“Beagle Locality Resettling Rapid Survey Reveals” the Medford Mail Tribune reported in August of 1948. Thirty-four former residents were named in the article as having already purchased or intending to purchase land in Beagle. Some, like Mr. Frink and Mrs. Beers, bought their former holdings and others purchased land other than their original tract. Mrs. Blanche Sweet, Marshall Sweet’s mother, deeded her original 40 acres to her son and Mrs. Charlotte Sweet on June 9th, 1948, (recorded August 26, 1948, Warranty Deed, Book 304:50).

Although the Tribune article states that three of the farmers had already fenced and planted a crop, Mr. Frink, Mrs. Sweet, and Mrs. Beers all recall a longer period of restoration. On their return, Mrs. Sweet recalls that the “houses and the outbuildings were all demolished. There wasn’t anything left but the foundation of our house (See Archaeological Investigation: Sweet Farmhouse site map). And the bombing practice and the shelling destroyed the trees” (Sweet Interview, SOHS: 549.22-2) (Figure 26).

Mrs. Beers also recalls that “...there were shell holes, some of them were four- or five-foot deep, six- or eight-foot around, in what had been our yard...” (Beers Interview, SOHS: 549.2-2). The first year the Beers were back, she remembers that “...we didn’t even have a farm and milked the cows under the cedar trees on the hill. It took approximately...between four and five years to get

it so that it was back to where it had been” (Beers Interview, SOHS: 549.2-3)

(Figure 27).

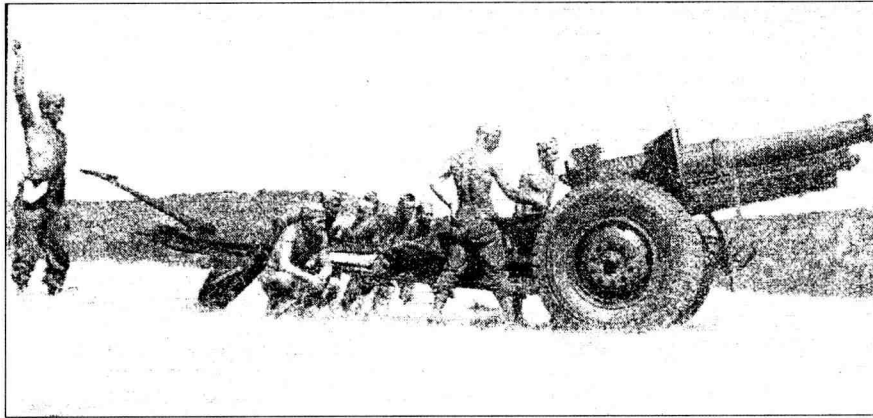


Figure 26. Artillery practice in the Beagle Area. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society, Camp White file, “Fire”-Camp White, #15.

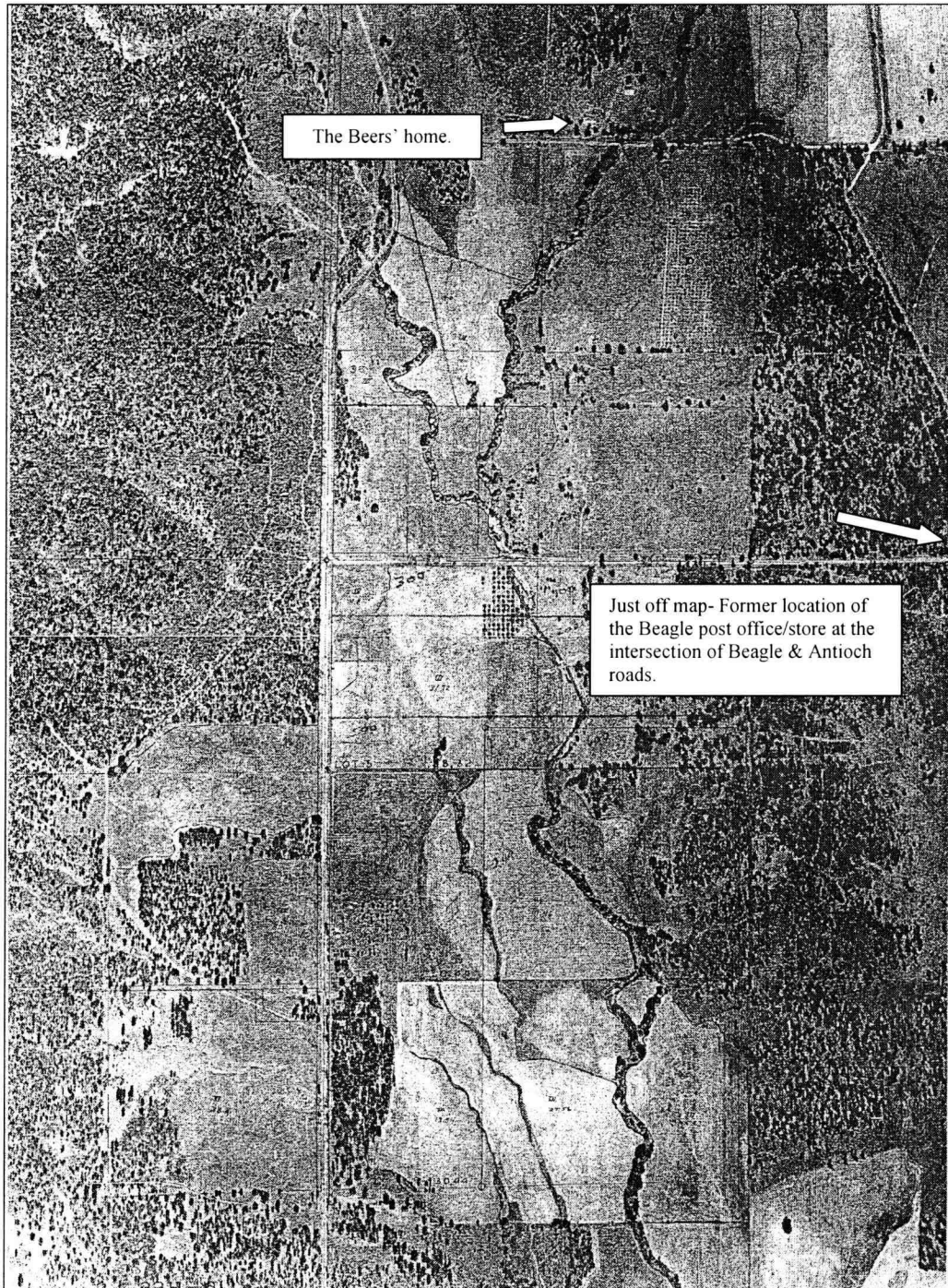


Figure 27. 1952 Aerial Photographs of the Beagle Area. The Beer's home and structure to the northeast appear to stand alone in this section of Beagle. Photo: Jackson County Assessor's office.

Military ordinance itself was a big problem for those who returned. The army cleared ordinance out of the Beagle area after the war but, as Mr. Frink said “...they missed some of them” (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1) (Figure 28). Farmers plowing fields encountered them regularly and I found newspaper accounts of mortar shells from the 1970s – “Silver bells and old bombshells” (Medford Mail Tribune: August 13, 1976), the 1980s- “Sams Valley Farmer Unearths Mortar Shell” (Medford Mail Tribune: October 26, 1981), and the 1990s. Mrs. Beers related in her 1991 interview that a shell had been uncovered only a couple of months before. While most of the ordinance recovered were duds, this last one happened to be live (Beers Interview: SOHS: 549.2-6).

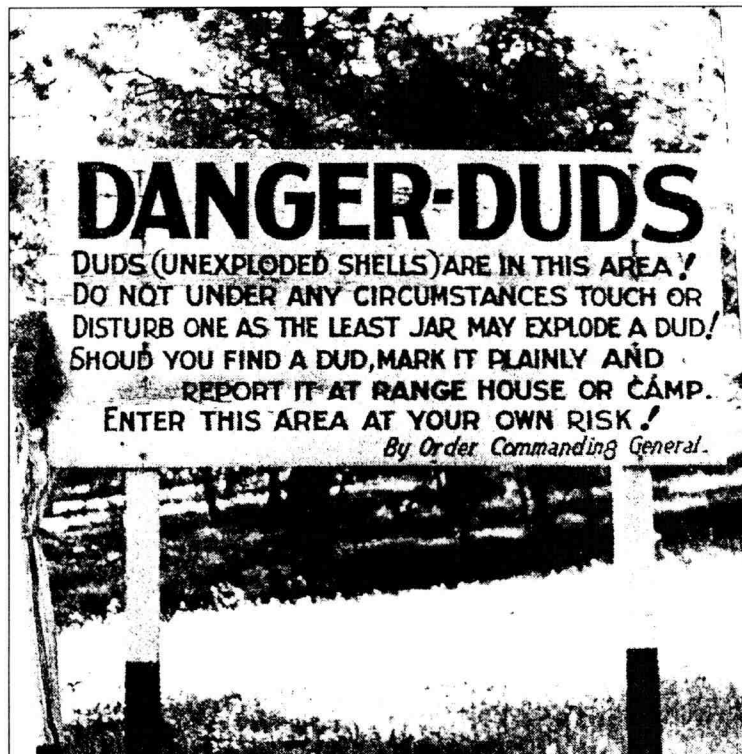


Figure 28. “Danger-Duds.” Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society, Camp White file. “Signs in Sams Valley Area,” file #13700.

Cows also proved to be a problem for the returned residents. Since the 1944 leasing agreement with the army, ranchers near Beagle had become accustomed to grazing their cattle across the Beagle landscape. During the war, when artillery practice was scheduled to begin, the army would notify ranchers of the firing schedule. They, in turn, would keep their cattle off the land until the all-clear sounded, and then once again turn them out (Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1). Consequently, when people began to return to the area, the first order of business was the rebuilding of fences. “We had to fence everything, because it was left all open country, and the big cattle men just turned their cattle all loose, free pasture, so you had to fence everything with good stock fence” (Beers Interview: SOHS:549.3)

Archaeological Investigation

A battlefield created in the twentieth century within the borders of the United States is nonexistent. There has not been a war fought within this country's borders since the Civil War. But the "Artillery Impact Area" that was once the community of Beagle was a battlefield. The combatants, granted, were all on the same side, the battles were staged, and injuries received were accidental.

Nevertheless, the damage to the land from 105mm Howitzers, the smaller 37mm sub-caliber guns, rifles, machine guns, jeeps, as well as the daily toll of hundreds of human feet conducting military training, had a similar impact on the landscape of Beagle as on a genuine field of battle (Figure 29).



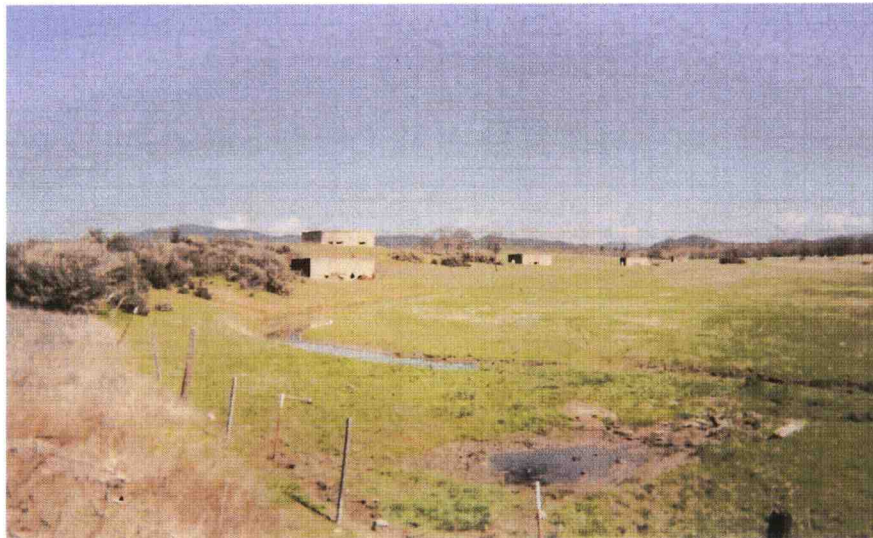
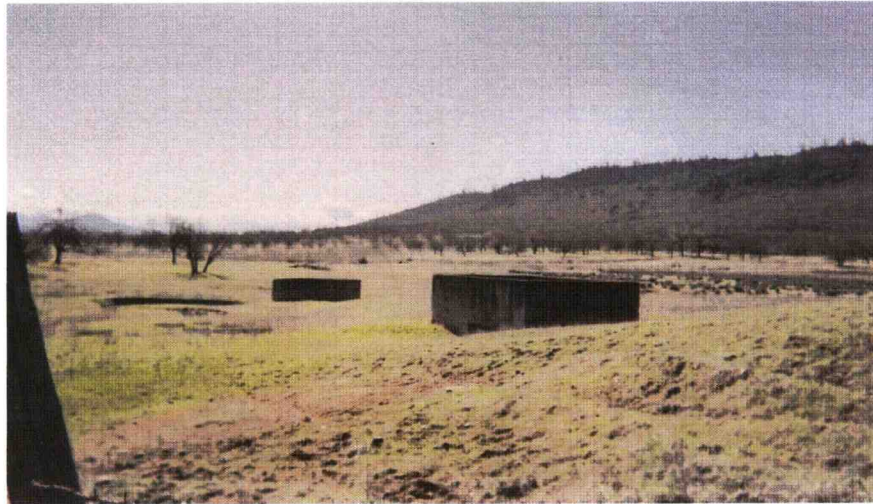
Figure 29. The Beagle Artillery Impact Area in use circa 1943. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society, Camp White file, photo #13628.

One of the enduring impacts of an encampment the size of Camp White is the associated built environment. The Beagle Area functioned as a training ground for artillery as well as ground maneuvers. This last is still evident on the landscape in the form of “pillboxes” that dot the southern portion of the study area. Built to simulate Nazi controlled fortified coastal areas, and used in infantry drills (Kramer 1992: 41), sixty years on these concrete structures, while still oddly juxtaposed with pastures, cows, and homes, have become integrated into the post-war Beagle landscape and their weathered and settled appearance startle only newcomers to the area (Figure 30 and 31).

Because the Beagle Impact Area was not used in the same manner across the landscape, one of the questions that I hoped to investigate was the potential for differences within the archaeological record in the area. The vicinity of what was once the school and what was (and is) the cemetery was consciously avoided by the military during artillery practice. The Sweet homestead, however, was in an area of continued bombardment. As stated earlier, all that remained of the Sweet’s farmhouse was the foundation.

The questions I had, then, were these: Would archaeological investigation show a significant difference between these areas? What would be the differences in the postwar stratigraphy, if any, between the areas heavily shelled and those not in the designated impact area? What would be the effect on the archaeological sites created when homes, barns, outbuildings were abandoned? Would the artillery bombardment have destroyed certain sites entirely? Working alone and

unable to finance archaeological excavation, subsurface investigation was not possible. The result of the pedestrian survey conducted in the two areas,



Figures 30 and 31. Pillboxes along Antioch road. Author photos.

however, tentatively suggests that the archaeological record of the two areas would differ.

The Beagle area is, for the most part, privately owned and as such, I decided to conduct my field survey in two areas of known extant features: the steps of what was, until removal, the Antioch schoolhouse and the location of the Sweet farmhouse. Mr. Phillip Sweet kindly gave me permission to survey the latter.

The Antioch School Site

When I first began this project, I knew the general location of the schoolhouse but without the knowledge of Mr. Sweet, would never have found the school steps, situated as they were within a very dense thicket of manzanita (Figure 32).

In fact, the footprint of the school building was clearly defined by this thicket of manzanita. The original three steps remain (Figure 33) and, measuring them, I found the bottom step to be 10 feet, the middle step 8 feet and the top step 6 feet in length running north and south.



Figure 32. Antioch School site-2004. Overview of manzanita and buckbrush footprint of schoolhouse location. View to the north. Author photo.



Figure 33. Antioch School steps-2004. Author photo

Using the known length of the 10 foot long step, I measured the same step in a circa 1930 photograph of the school and determined that the schoolhouse had measured approximately fifty-five feet in length. Unfortunately, there is no way to determine the width, only to estimate that, proportionally, it probably was between thirty and forty feet.

While crawling through manzanita to measure steps is one thing, the area within the footprint of the school was also densely covered in buckbrush, young oak trees, as well as a heavy duff of oak leaves, grasses, vetch, and rhododendron. Pedestrian survey, therefore, within the school footprint and the immediate surrounding area was impossible.

The land around the footprint was open, however, and an initial reconnaissance survey was possible. In 2004, with the help of archaeologist Stacy

Lundgren, we spent an afternoon on the grounds of the school yard, the southern end of which had, at the time of removal, been a pasture that served as the school playground. We did a general survey that followed the contours of this open area that had also housed the horse barn associated with the school. Approximately 100 feet east of the schoolhouse, the girl's privy had occupied the northeast corner of this eastern flank while and the boy's privy was located in the southeast corner (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 19, 2003).

While the duff was very heavy in these open areas as well, we did have some success. Our survey found one square nail fragment, a solorized bottle base fragment, three window glass fragments, one of which had been exposed to fire, one slate fragment, six small non-diagnostic glass fragments, two small non-diagnostic pottery shards, and a small can dump with thirteen cans visible, (Figure 34), approximately 25 feet from the eastern side of the school.

Additionally, a formed concrete feature was discovered, the use of which is unknown, as well as the extant well, now capped, associated with the school (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, May 18, 2003; Frink Interview: SVCAC/BHIG #1) (Figures 35 and 36).



Figure 34. Small can dump-Antioch School site. Author photo.



Figure 35. Capped well associated with the Antioch School. Looking east. Author photo.



Figure 36. Capped well. Archaeologist Stacy Lundgren in background. To the northwest. Author photo.

When I returned to the area in 2005, a group of local residents had cleared the schoolhouse area and even though manzanita and young oaks remain, a more thorough survey was completed (Figures 37 and 38).



Figure 37. Antioch school site after clearing. Steps in right background. View to the east from original road that led to schoolhouse. Author photo.



Figure 38. Road that led to schoolhouse. Morris Frink recalls that his mother planted the irises that still thrive on either side of driveway. View to the northwest. Author photo.

Using ten-foot transects and beginning at the southeast corner of the extant school steps, I walked east, approximately forty feet, to the edge of the remaining dense growth of manzanita and buckbrush that had not been removed during the clearing project. I continued the transect on the other side of this obstruction and finished at the fence which separates the Antioch cemetery/school from the private property to the east, a distance of approximately 125 to 150 feet. I did three ten-foot transects extending from within the schoolhouse flat as well as two transects, again east to west on the north end of the schoolhouse and encompassing the capped well. This was the end point of the survey to the north.

I then completed five ten-foot transects from the southeast corner of the steps heading south until reaching some trash barrels connected with the still

operational Antioch Cemetery. This was the end point of the transects, a distance of approximately fifty feet.

Analysis

The area in which the majority of these artifacts were found was, until very recently, a thicket of mature manzanita and buckbrush. The slow rate of growth of manzanita, the gradual return of residents after 1948, and the complete lack of post-war construction on this site makes it probable that the majority of the surveyed area has had a minimum of post-war human activity. It is likely, then, that this small sample of 10 artifacts from the 2004 and 82 artifacts from the 2005 survey are directly associated with the schoolhouse, its destruction, and activities of former Antioch students and Beagle residents. The majority of artifacts are too small to be useful as dating tools. There are, however, suggestive elements within the collection. The presence of a square nail fragment, probable window glass, and brick within the school flat itself are reminders of its destruction (Figures 39 and 40).

Further, the Antioch schoolhouse functioned not just as a school but also as a community center. The presence of artifacts associated with food reinforces the nature of some of the functions of the Antioch school. It is obvious that definitive conclusions can not be drawn from a sample of this size. But it is suggestive of the vital nature of the Beagle community as a whole and the important role of the school within that community.



Figure 39. Square nail fragment.



Figures 40. Brick fragments-possibly from school bell tower. Author photos.

The Sweet Farmhouse

In June 2005, I surveyed the location of the old Sweet farmhouse (Figure 41). In 1949, the Sweets reacquired their property and they, in turn, later deeded one acre of this property to their son Phillip who still lives there. He gave me permission to survey his property.

The foundations of the house are still visible and abut the south side of what is now Sweet Lane at the top of an eight-foot steep road cut. There is also a gently sloping embankment on the west side of the foundations that rises from the modern graveled driveway that gives access to Mr. Sweet's current home. East and south of the foundations is pasture that Mr. Sweet utilizes for himself, his dogs, and horses.

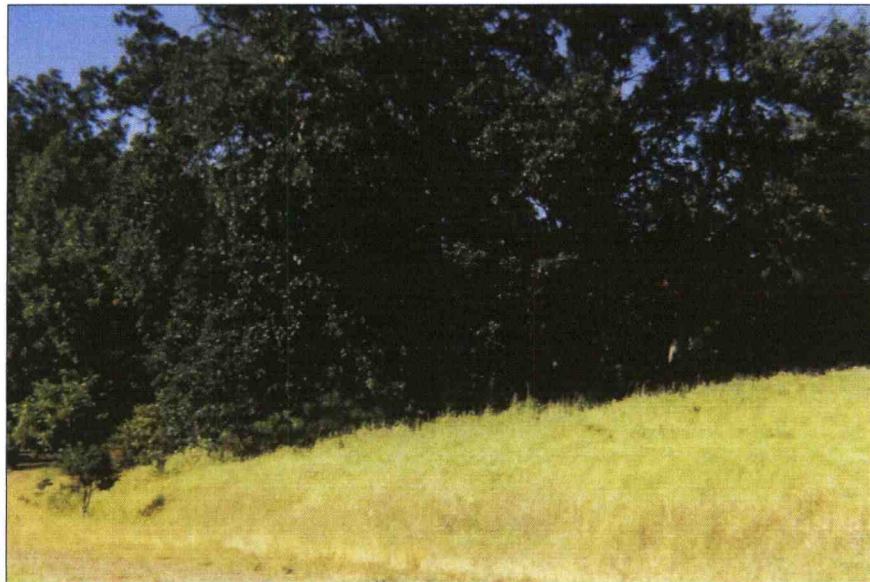


Figure 41. Overview and footprint of original Sweet farmhouse. View to the north. Author photo.

The foundation walls are relatively short pony walls and well worn with a section of the southeast corner missing. The southwest corner has the remains of an exterior step extant (Figure 42).

The east wall tapers down from a height of approximately 12 inches from the northeast corner to the southeast corner where it is flush with the ground. Whether this is the original design of the wall or the consequence of subsequent military activity is unknown. Another pony wall, running north and south, bisects the middle of the interior footprint while portions of the foundation have tumbled into this same area. The duff is very thick in all areas of the site and foxtail, vetch, and other grasses abound while a mature cedar tree grows in the middle of the west wall. Domestic rosebushes grow wild and abundantly (Figure 43).



Figure 42. Extant step, original Sweet farmhouse. Author photo.



Figure 43. Rosebushes and oaks near original Sweet farmhouse. Author photo.

I surveyed around the exterior and inside the walls and obtained the best measurement I could of the original dimensions: west to east the walls run approximately thirty feet and north to south approximately twenty-five feet (Figure 44). I also surveyed the embankments and the pasture, walking to the east and south in unstructured transects for a distance of approximately fifty feet from the foundations. Given the thickness of the duff, survey windows were few and this determined my route.

Even given the duff, the dearth of visible artifacts was surprising. I found one 16-penny nail, one tin can, and one red brick fragment on the west-facing embankment (Figure 45).

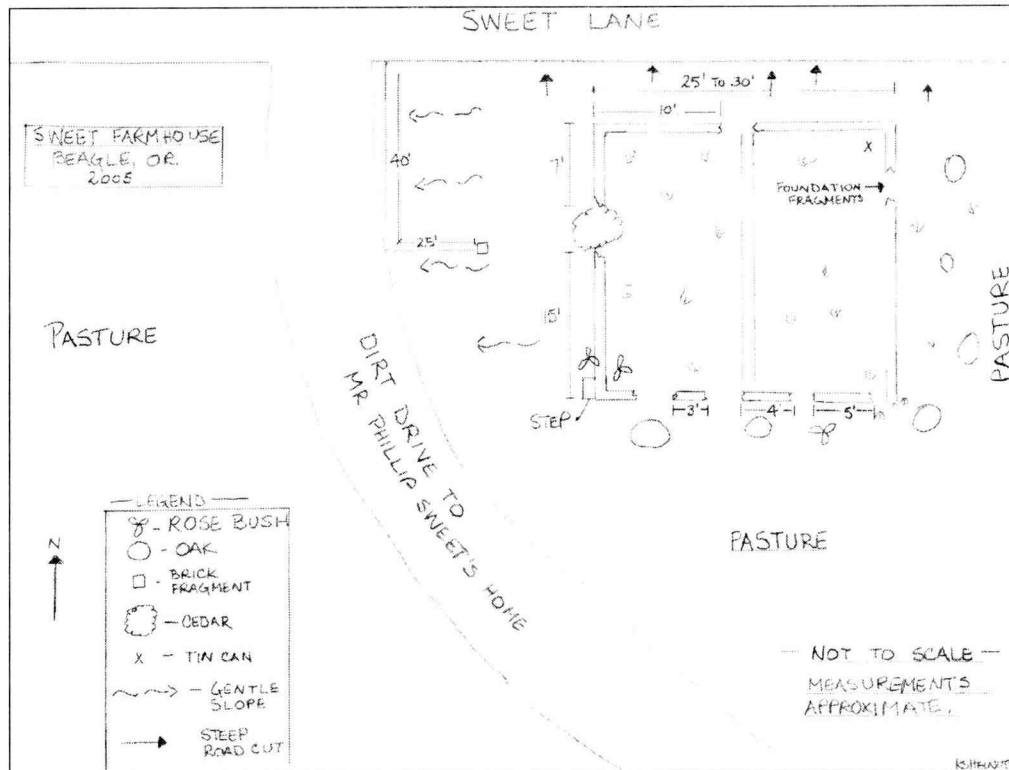


Figure 44. Site map of the extant Sweet farmhouse features. Pedestrian survey conducted 2005. Drawing by author.



Figure 45. Brick fragment found on gentle down slope west of original Sweet farmhouse. Author photo.

Summary

The relative abundance of artifacts found in an area known to have been intentionally avoided by military artillery action, (Antioch School site), and the absence of artifacts within an area of high impact, (Sweet Farmhouse), tentatively supports the hypothesis that the different levels of military impact across the Beagle landscape would also be reflected in the archaeological record. This physical evidence also serves as another literal and figurative illustration of the devastation the construction of Camp White brought to the community of Beagle.

Discussion and Conclusions

One purpose of this project was to explore a little known segment of the history of World War II: the displacement of Americans due to the construction or expansion of military bases and training facilities. This work is the first academic study of these events in Southwest Oregon and adds to the relatively small body of work on this subject.

The primary focus of this project, however, was to explore the social and cultural impact of Beagle's destruction on its inhabitants through the lens of current landscape theory. Geographer Tuan (1979) understood that "landscape...is not to be defined by itemizing its parts. The parts are subsidiary clues to an integrated image" (Tuan 1979:89). And archaeologist Thomas (2001) suggests that landscape is an interdependent whole comprised of a spatial component and "culture and social relations, power and politics, identity and experience" (Thomas 2001:166). The data generated from this study of the Beagle landscape enhances and contributes to this theoretical understanding of landscape.

Further, this project adds to this discussion of landscape because former inhabitants of Beagle were able to return to their land. The ability to study the pre-war, war-time, and post-war environment as well as the long-term cultural adaptations and adjustments of former residents able to return to their community is relatively unique, certainly as relates to the other examples cited in this paper (Fort Hood, Hanford).

This project also intended to enhance the current national narrative about the Second World War. This study presents a unique opportunity to examine the construction of memory within a community experiencing a specific traumatic event (removal due to the construction of Camp White) during a specific historic event (World War II). Again, the fact that many were able to return after the war affects this construction of memory. The fact that they were able to return and create new memories within their original landscape perhaps explains, in part, their eventual acceptance of the events surrounding removal.

What, then, were the short and long term effects on the Beagle landscape? I assumed, at the beginning of this project, that I would encounter people with a sustained bitterness and antipathy towards “the Government” due to the loss of the Beagle landscape. My research showed that, at the time, feelings did run high at Beagle and other communities so affected (see Smith 1986 and Thomas 2006). In the case of Beagle, however, my work shows that such feelings are currently sustained only by two residents who were children at the time of removal.

The first time I approached Mr. Sweet, who was nine in 1942, and told him about my project, he asked, “You mean the time the government took our land away?” (Phillip Sweet, personal communication, 2003). Mr. Kenneth Bigham, six at the time of removal, recalls “they just come in and took it away from us...everyone knows about the history of Camp White. But they don’t realize all our homes were taken away from us” (Medford Mail Tribune, Our Valley supplement 2005:115). The trauma they experienced as children has evolved

into an angry memory of the event as well as frustration at its relative absence from both the history of the Rogue Valley and the knowledge of the majority of its inhabitants.

But those who were young adults in 1942 have, generally, come to place their memories of the event within the context of the period. Though shocked and angry at the time, they now examine their loss with what can be called a positive pragmatism. For Mrs. Sweet, “one of the good things...that came out of it...I would never have returned to college and gotten my degree, because we would have lived out on the farm and there wouldn’t have been any incentive for me to do it...” (SOHS 549.22-17). And Mr. Frink recalls that though the residents of Beagle were uprooted, they also benefited from the economic boom associated with Camp White. Several, including Mrs. Sweet’s husband, Mrs. Beers’ husband, and Mrs. Hilkey’s father, found construction work at the camp.

Additionally, many of Beagle’s young men entered the service and those who remained behind felt that everyone was sacrificing something for the war effort. Mrs. Sweet, with three brothers in service, came to believe that the loss of their homes did not compare with the loss of a loved one serving in the military (Sweet Interview SVCAC/BHIG: #5).

Former residents of the land now occupied by Fort Hood echo this sentiment. In an interview recorded almost sixty years after removal, Hazel Wilkinson recalled that “it was hard because you didn’t have much time...It was hard, but

they (her older in- laws) all managed. We had to support the war, do things to support our troops” (Pugsley 2001:148).

Over the last sixty years, they have instead directed their energy to reclaiming what they can of Beagle (Figure 46) through the repurchase and rebuilding on family land, the annual Beagle picnic, the care and operation of the Antioch cemetery, and collecting oral histories.

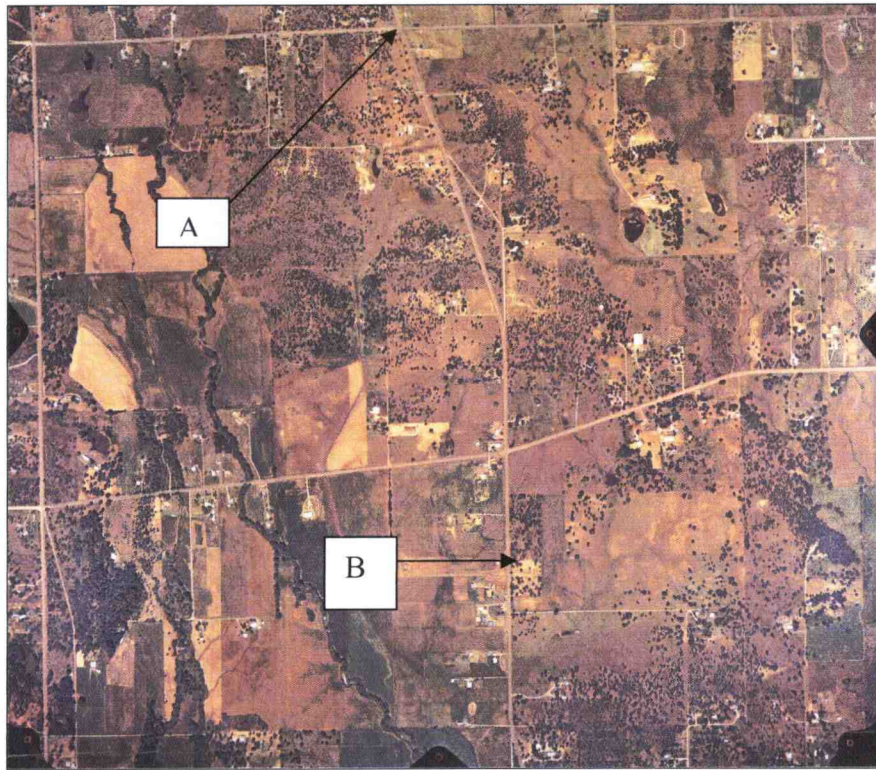


Figure 46. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) aerial photograph, taken May 25, 1996, showing the resettlement of the Beagle area. “A” indicates intersection of Antioch and Beagle roads, location of post-office/store. “B” indicates historic and current location of cemetery and historic location of Antioch school.

An additional means by which the Beagle landscape has been retrieved is through place names, specifically the names of roads. The 1932 Metzger map indicates that Beagle “roads” were unnamed and unpaved prior to World War II. In the Beagle area today, however, street names acknowledge the existence of former residents and the built environment: Antioch Road, Sweet Lane, Dodge Road, Beagle Road, Jones Road, and Glass Lane. The naming and paving of the roads by the county in the post-war period serves as a concrete adjunct to the memories of those that once lived there and further, serve to indicate former community boundaries and history to newcomers.

Former and returned resident Thelma (Sanderson) Beers, (Figure 47) in an interview with the Southern Oregon Historical Society recalls:

“...and one thing the county did do...to hold the old names, they named the roads, wherever they came after...like where our little Beagle Post Office and store was, why we had a Beagle Road. And the name of our school was Antioch District, so we have an Antioch Road. And they held the old names that way” (Beers Interview, SOHS: 549.2).



Figure 47. Thelma Sanderson and her brothers Robert and Ernest in front of their home at Beagle. Photo courtesy Thelma (Sanderson) Beers.

An encounter that Lois (Glass) West, a former resident who did not return to the post-war Beagle area, had with a “new” resident further illustrates the importance of these names:

“One time I took mother out to the graveyard [Antioch cemetery] and I said let’s go back the other way, you know up [state highway] 234 and around that way. And there was a sign-Glass Lane! Boy, I tooled in there and it was just a couple trails, you know. And we was goin’ down there and we met a car. And of course I had to get off and it was kind of hard.... And she was quite indignant. “What are you doing?” She didn’t recognize us, you know. “What are you doing out here?” And I said, “Well it said Glass Lane and we’re Glasses.” (laughs) “Oh!” she says. “There were some Glasses here?” And I said, “Definitely. Granddad and his three sons all lived on this road.” “Oh”, she says, “I thought it was a mistake, it should have been Blass.” There was somebody in the area named Blass and she thought it was a mistake. So I sure set her right! (laughs) She decided we had a right to come there. She learned some history, too” (West Interview, SVCAC/BHIG: #4). (Figures 48-51).



Figure 48. Letterhead from Glass Brothers' Threshing Company, 1906. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society, Beagle File.

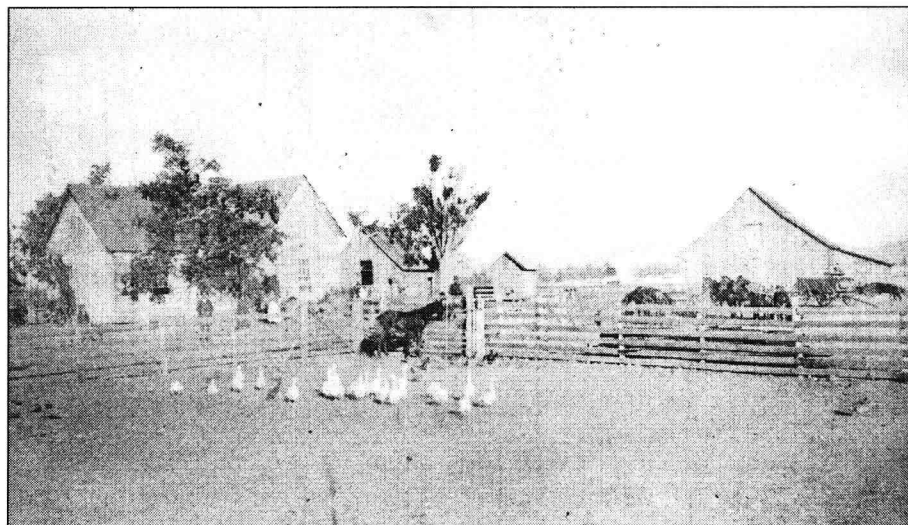


Figure 49. The Glass Ranch, Beagle, Oregon. Circa 1920.



Figure 50. The Henry and Sara Glass home, Beagle, Oregon. Circa 1915.

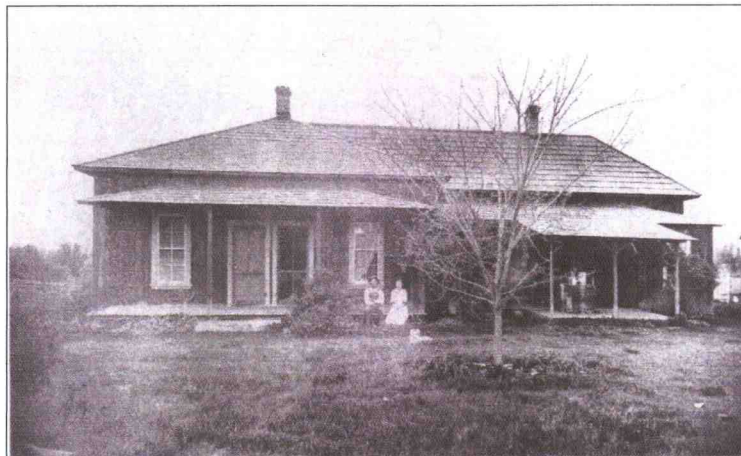


Figure 51. Lois (Glass) West's parent's home. Elbert and Millie Glass seated in front. Circa 1915. All photos courtesy Mrs. Lois (Glass) West.

My research also found that though the extant physical landscape of Beagle is sparse, it continues to be carried in memory, continues to inform the social and cultural landscape of Beagle, and is tended to when possible.

After the military finally relinquished the land in 1949, the dirt covering the graves in the Antioch Cemetery was removed. This dirt had originally been taken

from, and was subsequently returned to, land directly across the road from the cemetery. Marshy land to begin with, the crater left by the military action was formed into a small lake by the current owners, Doris and Tom Walker. In order to create their lake in the late 1950s, they formed a portion of the returned dirt into an earthen dam. This relatively recent addition to the Beagle landscape, an indirect result of the military presence, now attracts ducks and other wildlife (Figure 52).



Figure 52. Small lake on the Walker property, directly across the road from Antioch Cemetery. Crater was formed when the military removed the dirt to cover the graves in the cemetery. Earthen dam of returned soil is in right background. Author photo.

When the graves were uncovered in 1949, the Antioch Cemetery Association was formed. This land and the former school property are owned in common by the Association (Sweet Interview, SVCAC/BHIG #5). The cemetery, well cared for and tidy, is operating again. Having expanded north, it now incorporates the former schoolhouse playground for the schoolhouse (Figure 53). The current sexton is Thomas Walker who lives directly across from it on Antioch Road.

The Antioch school building, though destroyed long ago, continues to occupy its original space both literally and in memory. On June 25, 2006, Doris and Thomas Walker, Linda Davis and a group of original Beagliters including Mr. Morris Frink, his sister Eva, Robert, Ernest, and Larry Sanderson, and some of their children, attended a ceremony. Held on the grounds of the former Antioch school, Mr. Frink (Figure 54) cut the ribbon on a brass plaque attached to a marble base that reads “Historic Site of the Antioch Elementary School, PS 18, Circa 1883-1942.” This event was a culmination of the efforts of local residents, privately financed and implemented.

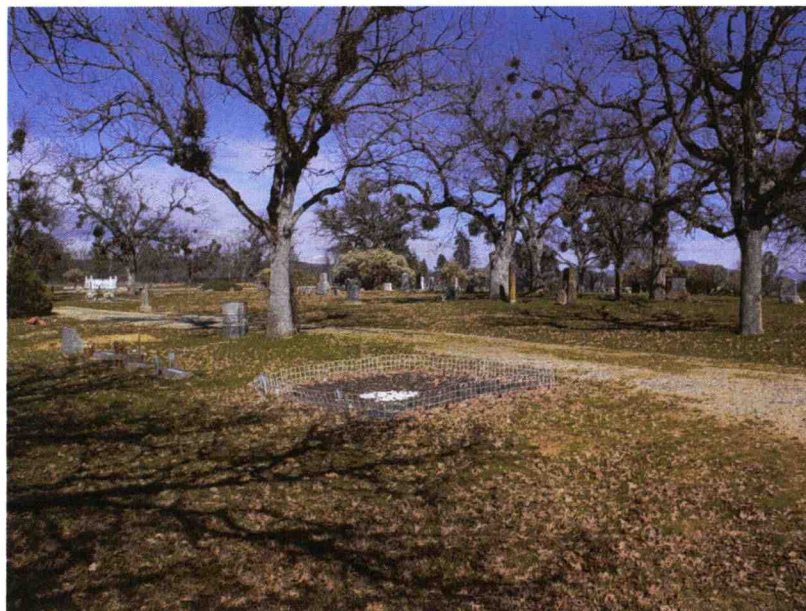


Figure 53. The Antioch Cemetery today. Photo by author.



Figure 54. Mr. Morris Frink on the grounds of the Antioch School, June 25, 2006. School steps in right background. Photo courtesy Mrs. Doris Walker.

This project has shown that the landscape of Beagle exists and, albeit changed, is still alive and well. It continues to evolve and exist spatially as well as

culturally. Though initially bruised through loss and dispersal of the residents, the Beagle landscape has retained a cohesive core of former residents that have kept, and continue to keep, the memory of their home alive (Figure 55).

**WHERE THE HECK IS
BEAGLE, OREGON?**

Figure 55. Bumper sticker sold by the Eagle Point Historical Society. Author's collection.

Recommendations for Further Research

Current archaeological investigations of communities that experienced events similar to those of Beagle (Hanford, Fort Hood) are asking important questions of the archaeological record and providing insights into a pattern of behavior connected with such events (see Thomas 2006). This work is also illuminating a segment of American culture that would undergo a sea change in the years following 1945. Rural America of the 1920s and 30s, without electricity, paved roads, phones, and in many cases, cars and/or tractors, had faded (with the exception of groups like the Amish) into oblivion by approximately 1960. And as our culture grows increasingly more frenetic and development continues to devour traditionally rural areas, it is essential that archaeologists get there first.

The study of areas like Beagle will add to our knowledge about early 20th century rural American but also contribute to a largely unknown chapter in the history of World War II. One important caveat is recommended. In excavating areas that, like Beagle, were used as heavy artillery ranges, an archaeologist who has extensive experience in battlefield archaeology is needed. There are still ordnance in these “friendly” battlefields and, while most of them may be duds, excavation strategy will need to take into account their potentially lethal presence.

Finally, the time is ripe for a book to be written about this subject. Sixty-one years have passed since the conclusion of the Second World War and the people that experienced the events described here are seventy years of age or older or have already passed on. The window of opportunity for oral histories will close

forever within the next fifteen years. It is to be hoped that a comprehensive study of at least five such communities in the near future will allow these voices to finally be heard on the national stage.

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APPENDIX

Appendix A

The typology used for these data follows the guidelines delineated by Roderick Sprague (Sprague 1980).

Antioch School Artifact Descriptions

Domestic Items

Housewares and Appliances

Containers, Food

Cans, Tin
(minimum vessels=7)

A 2 ½ inch diameter by 3 ½ inch length can with the lid attached and originally opened with a key. The lid has C 96 embossed on it.

One can 2 3/8-inch diameter by 1 ½ inch long.

One can 4 inches long with a 3 inch diameter. On the bottom is embossed “ETAB 855(?) and underneath this line is a J(?).

One flattened can approximately 4 inches high and 2 ¾ inches in diameter.

One flattened can approximately 4 ½ inches long with a 2 ¾ inch diameter.

One flattened can approximately 5 ½ inch high and 3 ¼ inch in diameter.

One 2 7/8 diameter can top.

One tin can lid with ¼ inch wide lip.

One “sardine” style can with no lid. It would have originally opened with a key and measures 3 ½ inches long and 2 5/8 inches wide. On the bottom is an indented circle, 1 3/8 inch in diameter, with “Industria Argentina” around the inside edge of the circle. Across the middle of the circle is “ESTABIA”. There are also what appear to be four or five numbers but these are obscured by rust.

Bottle, Glass

One solarized bottle base.

Seal Cap, Glass

A rim fragment of a glass lid typically used for vacuum sealing in the canning process. Measuring one inch long and ½ inch wide at its widest point, the fragment also has a portion of the diagnostic domed feature of these lids. The glass is white in color but is not typical milk glass.

Gustatory

Drinking Glass or Serving Piece, Clear

A large curved fragment, four inches in length and approximately three inches in diameter, was recovered. The glass was pressed into a mold and there are horizontal, decorative, indented channels on the vessel. It is possible that this is bottle fragment. The color of the glass, however, which is crystal-like in clarity, as well as the nature of the design, suggests otherwise.

Architecture

Construction

Materials

Brick

Two brick fragments that are 4 inches wide by 4 ½ inches long and 2 ¼ inch thick.

One fragment with extant manufactured edges and corners that is 2 ¼ inch thick 3 3/8 inches wide and 3 ¼ inches long. (photo)

The bell tower on the Antioch school had a brick base and it probable, given that this site has experienced little activity since the war, that these represent remnants of that base.

Fasteners

Nail, square

One square nail fragment. Size undetermined

UnknownCeramic*Unknown*

Porcelain

Two small porcelain fragments 1 7/8 inch by 1/2 inch and 1/4 inch by 1/8 inch were recovered.

Container, Porcelain

One base fragment, 1/2 inch by 3/8 inch was found.

Refined Earthenware

Four small curved fragments of clear glazed earthenware were found, the largest of which was 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch. All were approximately 5/16 of an inch thick.

Glass*Unknown*

Glass, Flat, Solarized

Six fragments of flat, solarized glass were recovered. The largest was 1 1/2 inches by 1 inch and two fragments were 1/8" thick while the remainder were 1/16" thick.

Glass, Flat, Clear

A total of twenty-five clear, flat glass fragments were found. Of these eighteen were 1/8" thick, three with evidence of exposure to fire, and six with a manufactured edge. Five fragments were 1/16" thick, one that was 3/16" thick and also burned, and one was 1/32" thick. It is probable that at least some of these are remnants of the schoolhouse windows as suggested by the finished edges on some of the fragments.

Glass, Curved, Clear

Two 1/8" thick fragments, one with the distinctive waviness of older manufactured glass.

Glass, Curved, Aqua

One 5/8" by 1/2" and 3/16 inch thick Ball fruit jar fragment. The piece is a portion of the cursive "B" where all three lines of the letter meet. This style of "B" was used on Ball canning jars from 1895 to 1960. The company, however, stopped manufacturing their jars in the classic "Ball blue" in 1937. (Bob Clay <http://home.earthlink.net/~raclay/DatingBalljars.HTML> accessed 5-21-06)

Glass, Curved, Brown

Four fragments of brown glass, 1/8" thick and typical of beer bottle glass, were recovered.

Glass, Curved, Green

One 1/2 inch by 5/8 inch and 1/4" thick and the color popularly known as "Coke bottle" green.

Glass, Milk, Container

Two pieces of 1/16" thick milk glass approximately 1/2" by 1/4" were found and both show attributes of either a letter or thread of the original vessel. In addition, one small burned fragment was found as well.

Glass, White, Translucent

Eight fragments of a glass that, though white in appearance, is not milk glass. It is slightly translucent and may be part of the larger diagnostic rim fragment found on the site. This is a portion of glass seal used in the vacuum sealing process on canning jars. The largest piece is 1/2" by 1/2" and all are 1/16" thick.

Metal

Unknown

Ferrous, Strapping

One 5 7/8 inch long by 3 inch wide strapping of a very thin gauge. In the center of the fragment on one edge is a 1/16 inch diameter nail hole. There also appears to be remnants of black lacquered surface treatment, probably original to the piece.

One 6 ½ inch long by 2 ¾ inch with edges that have been folded over 5/8 of an inch. There are three nail holes along one edge and one nail hole on the other edge.

One 5 7/8 inch long by 4 inch wide strapping of a very thin gauge that has one nail hole along the edge and another one inch directly below the first.

All of the strapping fragments, due to the presence of nail holes, are potentially the remains of barrel hoops or are possibly construction related.

Ferrous, Unknown

A triangular shaped, thin gauged fragment 3 ¾ inch high and six inches long at the base.

One 3 3/8 inch square fragment with two corners folded over.

Organic

Wood

Milled Wood

One small 1 ½ inch by 2 inch piece of milled wood. It is 1 inch thick at its thickest point but it was originally thicker and has diminished due to rot. There is also evidence of charring.

Two pieces approximately ½ inch square with extant original paint. The paint color is a green that is popularly known as “30s green”.